PROVISION FOR THE POOR:

OR,

A View of the decay'd State OF THE *Woollen Manufactory*;

With REMARKS on the CAUSES and Evil CONSEQUENCES thereof.

AND

A SCHEME of proper REMEDIES for the Recovery of it.

To the Enlargement of the REVENEW of the CROWN, Employment and Maintenance of the POOR; Increaſe of the Value of LAND and NAVIGATION, and General Welfare of *Great-Britain* and *Ireland*.

By Cultivating a Harmonious Agreement and Love betwixt Subject and Subject, to the Glory of our KING and COUNTRY.

By *JOHN HAINES*.

The Second Edition.

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THE PREFACE TO THE READER.

THE Preſervation and Increaſe of the Woollen Manufacture being of the greateſt Importance to *Great-Britain*, 'tis preſumed a juſt Repreſentation of the preſent State of it will not be unacceptable to the Publick. 'Tis but too manifeſt, that the True Intereſt of it is not perſued with due Diligence and Care, and that proper Meaſures are not yet fallen upon for Promoting it, by the effectual Preventing the Exportation of Wooll.

Some, perhaps, are not aware of the pernicious Conſequences of its Decay, and the vaſt Advantage of its Preſervation in the greateſt Share it bears in the Maintenanee of the Poor, and in moſt Branches of our Foreign Trade.

That this may be ſet in a clear Light, I have here ſhewn the Value of our Wooll, and by how many Hands the diſtinct Species are made into various Commodities, without the Manufacturing of which, the Ballance of Trade muſt Sink; the Revenue of the Crown muſt fall, and the Poor be left for a Burthen upon the Rich.

By

By this the Reader may perceive how induſtrious *France* has been, and is, to obtain our Wooll, to ſtrengthen their own Hands, and weaken us in the moſt ſenſible Manner, and how unnatural our Fellow-Subjects conſpire to the Ruin of their Native Country.

I give a ſhort View of the Indeavours hithereto uſed to prevent this Exportation how they came to be uneffectual; with a Scheme of Propoſals for the more effectual purſuit of that Service.

If I have done Juſtice to thoſe Heads, I hope the Reader will acknowledge the Performance is not unſeaſonable now the Parliament is Sitting.

I am ſo far from being diſcouraged by the Loſs I have ſuſtain'd in the purſuit of this Service, that if I were reimburſt it by the Government, would readily and chearfully employ it again in the ſame Service.

I can, without Vanity ſay, that what I then did in the Station of a Commiſſioner, and what I now Write, is ſincerely meant for the Benefit of the Manufactory and Merchants of *England*; leaving it to the peruſual of all who wiſh well to their Country.

TO THE

Right Honble Sir *Richard Onslow*, Bar. One of His Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council, Chancellor of the Exchequer, *&c.* Governour of the Honourable *Turky Company*;

Sir *Gerard Conyers*, Kt. and Alderman, Deputy Governour;

And to the rest of the Worthy Members of the said Company.

Gentlemen,

THE Design of the following Treatise, being to illustrate the Advantages which the Trade of this Kingdom receives in all its Branches, from the Woollen Manufactury, of which you are such Noble Supporters, by Exporting such great Quantities of our Broad Cloaths, to the Employing thousands of our Poor, as well as by your Imports of Silk and Grogram Yarn, whereby they may make the Nation easie, and themselves opulent, and the many other Advantages we

obtain by your generous Undertaking, makes me, by a ſort of Natural Inſtinct, fly to you for Protection of my ſelf and it, againſt the Malignant Tongues of thoſe who Tranſport our Unwrought Wooll, to the Deſtruction of Hundreds, and under Pretence of Commerce, ruin the Nation, by depriving it of thoſe ſo profitable Branches of Trade, by which this Kingdom muſt neceſſarily flouriſh.

The Support of our Woollen Manufacturies, is as inexpreſſible on Account of the Profit accruing by them, as the Loſs we muſt ſuſtain by their Diſcouragement, is ruinous. To You then, as Patriots of our Trade, Employers of our Poor, Maintainers of our Traffick, and the Glory of our Nation, which in ſo ſingular a manner, is beholden to your Honourable Company, I inſcribe the following ACCOUNT, which my Employment in this Affair, hath capacitated me to know, upon the moſt diligent Scrutiny, hoping that as it is deſign'd to open the Eyes of thoſe who are hitherto ignorant of its Advantage, and to refell the Arguments of ſuch who knowingly are its Deſtruction, ſo it may be a Means to evince how much I am deſirous of the Publick Welfare, and your Eſteem, as of all thoſe who wiſh the Proſperity of our Commerce, as doth

Your Humble Servant,

John Haynes.

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Provision for the Poor, &c.

THE Divine Providence hath no where more conspicuous in any thing, than in endowing different Countries with particular Productions, some in a less, others in a greater Degree, whereby they might be mutually dependent on each other. Amongst these, our Native Soil may most justly claim the Prerogative over her Neighbours, as being the least necessitated for their Assistance.

This is obvious beyond Dispute to any that has a Knowledge of *England*'s Fertility, wholesome Situation, and plenty of Grain for Mankind's Subsistence. Our Trade hath been, and is yet, the most considerable in *Europe*; but, to our no small Disadvantage, the *Woollen Manufactury*, the Glory of our Kingdom! the principal Employment of our Poor, and chiefest Revenue of the Crown, is sunk to that degree, (by the sinister Designs, and clandestine Practices of some, who build their own Greatness upon the Subversion of the Trade of their Native Country!) that if some speedy Stop be not put to this Abuse,

Thousands of our Poor must starve, and our Neighbours be enrich'd with That which our Ancestors look'd upon as the only Staple Commodity, and as advantagious to us, as the Mines of *Mexico* and *Peru* to the *Spaniards*. And we may with as much Reason affirm, That *England* is founded upon Wooll-packs, as the *Hollanders* do of their *Amsterdam*, That it is founded upon Herring Bones, from the Profits they reap by the Fishery.

The vast Quantities of Wooll which are continually transported to *France*, *Holland*, *Sweedland*, and other Places Unmanufactur'd, might, if work'd up here, turn to a prodigious Advantage in employing our Poor, and enriching us with the Commodities of all other Nations.

It will undoubtedly be granted on all Hands, that the only way to make a Nation both Rich and Happy, is to enlarge its Commerce and employ the Poor; The first of these will be a Means to make it the Possessor of the Productions of other Countries, and its Traffick very extensive; the other to procure Business for the Indigent, so that the Advantage obtained by Trade may be diffused to the lowest of its Members, and prevent their falling into Divisions, Tumults, Rebellions, Debauchery and Thiving, the dire Effects of Poverty and Laziness.

Of all the Labours which exercise the hand

of the Skillful Artiſt in this our Native Soil, none can be more uſeful or beneficial than the Woollen Manufactury; This if rightly managed and taken care of, is ſuch an Ocean of Wealth, ſuch an Advantage in our Trade, ſuch an Employ for our Poor, that Nature could not have ſhown Her ſelf any way more generouſly than by conferring ſuch a Donative upon us: If this be then ſo beneficial to our Commerce and Kingdom in general, therefore to every one of us in particular, ſurely we muſt be very ſtupid and ſupinely dull, to let ſuch an Ineſtimable Branch of our Profit be ſnarch'd from our Hands by the Induſtry of Foreigners, and the Villany of ſome of our Country-men, who raiſe their Fortunes upon the Ruines of our Trade.

The Woollen Manufacture ſurely ought to be preſerved; there is no need of Arguments to prove this, one would think; yet upon examination of the Decay of it, and the unwearied Induſtry of our Enemies to deprive us of this Flower of our Commerce, we ſhall find that there is no ſmall Occaſion for putting our Sticklers for its Tranſportation Unmanufactured, in mind of the Unnatural Sin they Commit in endeavouring to deprive their native Country of its greateſt Glory; and undeceive Thoſe who through Ignorance, or a Facility of believing, are careleſs of ſuch an Affair.

The Wooll of *France* and *Holland* is of that Nature and Quality, that 'twill not make Cloth or Stuffs, for Ornament or Service, without a mixture of Ours with it; And their Care and Diligence to get our Wooll for this purpose, is a ſufficient Indication of what I ſay.

When they have thus clandeſtinely obtain'd our Wooll they work it up in their own Manufacturies, cloath their own Subjects with it, and ſupply *Italy*, *Turkey*, *Spain*, and other Foreign Countries, which we formerly did. Now beſides the Decay of thoſe very Advantagious Trades, we uſed to carry on with ſeveral parts for our Woollen Manufactures which are now very much leſſened, by reaſon that others have deprived us of it. We likewiſe have an additional Burden, Namely, The vaſt Numbers of People, which being formerly maintain'd by this Labour, are now reduced to extreme Poverty for want of ſuch Employ: This is altogether owing to its Tranſportation, which our Neighbours by their Emiſſaries and greateſt vigilance, take care to encourage. Since then we know the worth of this Staple Commodity, let us take the ſame Care to counterwork them and prevent this Miſchief, and not ſupinely ſet down, and ſay with Solomon's Sluggard, *There is a Lyon in the Way.*

I ſhall

I ſhall therefore, in the firſt place, ſhew, what loſs the Exportation of Wooll is to the poor of *England*, and conſequently to the whole Nation. Secondly, How far it ſinks the Revenue of the Crown. And Thirdly, In what meaſure it affects the General Foreign Trade of *England* in all its Branches. This done I ſubjoin a ſhort Narrative of the Frauds and clandeſtine Plots us'd in carrying on the Exportation, and an Abſtract of ſuch Laws as have been made to prevent it: With a Scheme of Propoſals for the more effectual purſuit of that Service.

We have in *England* many noble Foundations for the Maintenance of our Impotent Poor; But the greateſt Number of others, whom the narrowneſs of their Fortunes oblige to ſeek Suſtenance by Labour, are certainly as much to be taken care off, I mean that they may have Employments to get their Living; leaſt Theſe, who might otherwiſe have become very uſeful Members to the Commonwealth, ſhould prove its greateſt Burden. It will therefore be abſolutly neceſſary to inform the Publick, what Numbers of Perſons are maintain'd by the Woollen Manufactury, and all other the Trades and Manufacturies which depend upon it; ſo that it may plainly appear what a Prodigious Deſtruction the loſs of this Manufactury muſt inevitably draw with it, to the Ruine of them and the whole Nation.

There

There are 3 ſorts of Sheeps-Wooll different in their Kinds, and apply'd to particular Uſes, *viz.* Our Down and Fallow Wooll, Long Coombing Wooll and Fell-Wooll: Of the firſt is made Cloath from 4 *s.* to 10 *s. per* Yard; from the Longer ſtaple Wooll, commonly call'd Combing-Wooll, are made Stuffs of all kinds, and likewiſe Stockins: From the Fell-Wooll taken from the Pelt or Sheep-ſkin, are generally made Druggets, Kerſeys, Peniſtones, Bayes, Long-ells, Blankets and Stockins. Great Numbers of People are continually Employ'd in making the Goods aforeſaid, and is a ſufficient Inſtance of the Loſs the Poor ſuſtain by the Exportation of Rough Wooll.

To form an Eſtimate of the Loſs more particularly, let us Compute the number of Poor employ'd in Manufacturing one Pack of ſhort Wooll into Cloth; And this I compute to be Sufficient Employment for 63 Perſons for one Week, *viz.*

3 Men to ſort, dry, mix and make it fit for the Stock-carder.
5 to Scribel or Stock-card it.
35 Women and Girls to card and ſpin it.
8 Men to Weave it.
4 Men and Boys to ſpoole it and wind Quills.
8 Men and Boy to ſcoure, burle, mill or full it, row, ſheare, rack and preſs it.

'Tis

'Tis needleſs to reckon up what each of theſe 63 Perſons may Earn in their reſpective Offices, it being ſufficient for my purpoſe to ſhew, that they are handſomly Maintain'd by theſe Means, and without it are reduced to a low Condition; Neither need I compute the Charge the Clothier is at, and the Profit he fetches in by the Sale, for that is various and uncertain.

Let us next Compute the whole Loſs Suſtain'd by the Exportation of our ſhort Cloathing Wooll, from an Information had from *France* of no leſs than Fifty thouſand Packs of Wooll ſome years ſince Annually imported there from *Great Britain* of *Engliſh* Growth, (which modeſtly computed is above 10000 *l. per Ann.* loſs to the Crown in Cuſtom for ſuch Goods as were imported in return for our Cloath) out of which Wooll might have been made 200000 Pieces of Broad Cloth, or Half-Cloaths, containing 23 Yards in length, computing but 4 Pieces to be made from one Pack; Now each Pack of ours working up two of French Growth as is aforeſaid, into good and ſerviceable Cloath, &c. which otherwiſe muſt be ſupply'd from *England*, our Loſs muſt then be treble the Number of ſuch Pieces, *viz* 600000, which would have employ'd a vaſt number of our Poor all the year round, and thereby a great Advantage would accrue to

the

the Manufacturer, Merchant, and the Kingdom in general.

And here I can't forbear taking Notice of the Number of People employ'd in working a Pack or 240 Pound-weight of Wooll into Stuffs for the Spaniſh Trade. Theſe Stuffs are made of a longer and larger ſort of Wooll than that is of which we make Cloth, and commonly grows in *Lincolnſhire*, *Leiceſterſhire*, *Northamptonſhire* and *Kent*; to make ſuch a Pack of long Combing Wooll into Fine Stuffs, Serges, Sagathies, Calimancoes, &c. would, upon a moderate Computation, employ for one Week 302 Perſons, who will earn 43 *l.* 10 *s.* thus:

	l.	*s.*
7 Combers	03	10
Dying	05	00
250 Spinners	18	00
20 Throwers and Doublers	05	00
25 Weavers and Attendance	12	00
302 Perſons.	43	10

Such a Pack, if wrought into the fineſt Stuffs, would employ double the Number of Hands, in the Spinning, and Weaving eſpecially.

That

That there may be nothing wanting to illuſtrate the Truth of what Loſs our Poor do ſuſtain in every Branch of this Trade, I will ſubjoin an Eſtimate of the Numbers imploy'd in making a Pack of Wooll into Stockins for the Trade aforemention'd, together with what they can earn, *&c.*

		l.	s.
10 Combers will earn		05	05
The Dyer		01	06
102 Spinners		15	00
12 Doublers and Throwers		04	10
60 Stocking-Weavers		30	00
202		56	01

Now if we do but ſuppoſe 16000 Packs of ſuch Combing Wooll be clandeſtinely exported to *France* in one Year, (although we have an Account of a far greater number from ſome, who have had to do in the Owling Trade) it is plain what a vaſt Loſs our Poor have; And the Advantages which Foreigners reap by obtaining this Staple Commodity, will doubtleſs have very fatal Conſequences attending it, in reference to our Foreign Trade.

As it is then deſtructive to our Poor to have Wooll Unmanufactured exported, ſo I will now endeavour to demonſtrate, That as the ſaid Manufactury doth influence all

the particular Branches of our Foreign Commerce, and keep up the Ballance of thoſe Trades, ſo if the Exportation ſtill continues, it will expoſe us to an Inequality in Trade, and reduce us ſo much as not to have a Native Product to exchange for their Goods, but be obliged to pay ready Money, which will ſink all at once; let us then but conſider what Trades they are which do depend ſo immediately upon this Buſineſs.

And firſt, the *Turky* Trade is moſt profitable to us in taking off the greateſt Quantity of Cloth, *&c.* And from thence we have in return many uſeful and beneficial Wares and Merchandizes; ſuch as Raw Silk, Grogram-yarn, Galls, Cotton Wooll, *&c.* Now by this Raw Silk many thouſands of our Poor are ſupported, being employ'd in working of it up into various Sorts of Manufactures; as they are alſo by the Grogram Yarn, which is made into Camblets, Pluſhes, Mohair for Beds, Buttons and Twiſt for Button-holes, Prunellas, *&c.* Their Galls are uſeful in Dying; their Cotton-Wooll is us'd in making of Fuſtians, without mentioning the other Dying Commodities, Drugs, Leather, *&c.*

And here again it falls in my way to take Notice how many Poor are employ'd Weekly in Manufacturing an hundred Weight of Raw Silk in the Broad-weaving Trade; as alſo in making Ribons, Silver-Spinning and Stockings, *&c.* The

The Silk manufactured into Garments, is generally Legee brought from *Turky*, in Exchange for our Woollen Cloth, an hundred Weight of which will employ Weekly 297 Persons, *viz.*

Throwers	70
Dyers	66
Winders	85
Quillers	50
Worpers	26
Weavers	60
Total	297

And these in their different Occupations will earn 88 *l.* 10 *s.*

The making of an hundred Weight of *Italian* Silk into Ribons, will, upon a moderate Calculation, employ Weekly 170 Persons, thus,

Throwers	70
Weavers	50
Quill-Boys and Attendance	50
	170

The like Weight of Belendine Silk to be work'd up in Handkerchiefs, will employ Weekly a conſiderable Number of People.

I think it highly neceſſary to deſcend into theſe Particulars, to give one that is ignorant a juſt Idea of the Dependance of our Poor upon theſe Trades which are influenced by the Woollen Manufactury: I will therefore give you an Account of the Numbers employed in working up an hundred Weight of Silk into Stockings. One Man will work up one Pound and an half of Silk in a Week, whereby are employ'd

Stocking Frame Knitters	75
Winders	50
Sizers	28
Seamers	26
Trimmers	06
Throwers, &c.	70
Total	275

I am credibly inform'd by an eminent Silver-Spinner, that it will be hard Labour for one Perſon to winde two Pound of Silk in a Week, ſo that 50 muſt be employ'd in the Winding 100 Pounds Weight.

The

The Spinner and 10 Boys may ſpin into Silver Thread two Pound of Silk in one Week, ſo that 100 Pound Weight will employ 500 Perſons.

This will doubtleſs be ſurprizing, if we conſider the vaſt Numbers who are occupied in making of it into Buttons, and other Things, too long to enumerate, but this may be enough to evince us of the prodigious Advantage ariſing from the *Turkiſh* and *Italian* Trades.

And here it falls in my way to give the Reader an Account of Raw Silks annually imported from *Turky*, *Italy*, and the *Eaſt-Indies*, *viz.*

	Bales.
By the *Turky*, or *Levant* Company, in Weight 160 great Pounds each	2500
From *Italy*	1300
From *India* and other Parts	850
Bales	4650

Now if an hundred Pound of ſuch Silk will employ in the Broad-Weaving, Narrow Weaving, Stocking-Frame Knitting, and Silver Spinning, upon a Medium, 230 Perſons in each of them (which are 920 in all) one Week, computing one with another, what a vaſt Number muſt 4650 Bales employ all the Year round. Not to mention the Grogram

gram Yarn imported thence, which, upon a modeſt Computation, is not leſs than 1800 Sacks, containing each 200 Pound neat Weight.

Now a thinking Man muſt be ſtrangely ſurprized, that there ſhould be ſo much Stupidity in any that ſhould influence them to obſtruct ſo beneficial a Branch of the *Engliſh* Trade, unleſs they will pride themſelves in being Enemies to their own Country.

The next beneficial Trade, I take to be *Spain*, which formerly took great Quantities of our fine Meddley Cloth, as well as Stuffs, Serges, Druggets, Bays, Stockings, and other Woollen Manufacturies; for which we had in Return *Spaniſh* Wooll, us'd in the making ſuch fine Cloth; and likewiſe Cochineel, Indico, Campaches, Annetto, Logwood and Silveſter, all of theſe are very neceſſary in Dying Wooll and Cloth for the Market, beſides other uſeful Wares and Merchandizes, as Bullion, Pieces of Eight, Wine, &c.

But ſince our late Wars, this advantagous Trade is very much declin'd, and 'tis to be fear'd will, in time, be wholly loſt; for the Court of *France* have entered into Contracts with them, to ſupply them with various ſorts of Woollen Manufactures, which before they were oblig'd to ſend to *England* for, and would ſtill undoubtedly do, was not our Wooll exported to *France*, inſomuch that

that these two last Years the Manufactures exported thither from *England*, were a fifth part less than what were annually exported the four last Years of the War. The *French* now make very great Quantities of these Manufacturies, by having our Wooll, which otherwise would incapacitate them to make good Cloth or fine Stuffs. They likewise shew their Design of Menopolizing our Woollen Trade to *Spain*, by endeavouring to engross the Bullion and *Spanish* Wooll, from which we plainly perceive how much it concerns us to preserve and promote our Woollen Manufacturies, seeing our Enemies exert their Power and Cunning to raise themselves by weakening us in the most sensible Part.

Portugal indeed on the other hand hath of late Years taken greater Quantities of our Woollen Manufactures than they did formerly, since we have had no Commerce with *France* in taking their Wines: From this Country is imported Oyl and Soap, useful in preparing our Wooll for spinning, and also in scouring the Cloth; likewise Argle, Shoomack and Brazoleto us'd in Dying.

The *East-India* Company have of late Years also taken greater Quantities of the Woollen Manufactures than before they traded to *Persia*; the Returns from thence are Raw Silk and Salt-Petre, Pepper and Drugs, which are more useful to us than their Muslins,

Muſlins, Callicoes, Coffee, Tea, and *China* Ware, &c.

In our Trade with *Ruſſia*, great Quantities of our Cloth are Exported, which in Return bring us home Pot-Aſhes, Hemp, Leather, Furrs, Sloode for making our Ship Lanthorns, and many other very uſeful and advantageous Commodities, whereby a great many Perſons of different Occupations are daily employ'd.

In the Reign of King *Charles* the Second, much of our Cloth was Monthly Exported to *Hamburgh*; but of late Years that noted and beneficial Trade is very much declined, indeed almoſt loſt; which I cannot but think is chiefly occaſioned by the laying open of that Company, whereby all Forreigners are priviledg'd in Trading thither; and by Cloth being made in the Neighbouring Countries, with the Help of our Wooll and Fullers Earth Exported to thoſe Parts, whereby they have been enabled to ſet up Manufacturies of their own. Our Returns from thence were chiefly in Linnen-Yarn, which, with Cotton-Wool brought from *Turky*, and our Plantations, is wrought up into Fuſtian Dimities, whereby ſome Thouſands of Poor were, and are ſtill, employ'd in the County of *Lancaſter*, and elſewhere, to the Support and Maintenance of many Families. There is alſo Linnen-Cloth, and many other uſe-

ful

ful Commodities brought from thence in Return for our Manufactures.

There was about 35 Years ſince a great Demand for our Cloth from *Holland*, &c. which is now very much leſſened; the Reaſon of which is thought to ariſe from the evil and clandeſtine Practices of our own People, in ſhipping our Wooll from *Ireland* and *England* thither, whereby they have ſet up Manufacturies of their own, to the manifeſt Prejudice of our Manufacturies and Merchants.

About that time alſo great Quantities of our fine Cloth and Stuffs made with *Spaniſh* Wooll, and the beſt of our *Engliſh* Growth, were ſent to *France*: But they have of late Years been ſo plentifully ſupplied with Wooll from *England*, *Spain*, &c. that through the Increaſe of their eſtabliſhed Manufacturies, not only the Subjects of that Kingdom, but alſo Forreign Markets, *viz. Italy*, *Turky*, *Spain*, &c. have been ſupplied.

Amongſt other Countries, I cannot omit taking Notice of *Flanders*, for which vaſt Quantities of our Cloth were formerly ſhipped; which Trade was loſt by our prohibiting the Importation of their Lace, &c. brought in Return of that Woollen Manufacture; upon this, they immediately forbid the coming of our Cloth to them, which could not be retrieved by our repealing that

Law, in regard they are now ſupplied from *France*. As for inſtance, *Amiens* a few Years ago had but 120 Looms employ'd on Account of the Woollen Manufacturies, but have had for theſe two Years laſt paſt 15000.

The next Grievance I ſhall mention (and a very ſevere one) is their getting our Dying Wares from us with leſs Charge than we can uſe them here, by reaſon of the large Drawbacks allowed on them; an Account of which take as follows.

	l.	*s.*	*d.*
1. Forreign Indigo pays imported *per* Ton	56	00	00
There is allow'd for the Drawback, when exported,	46	13	00
Remains Cuſtom to Forreigners	09	07	00
2. *Jamaica* Indigo Imported pays	24	05	04
The Drawback allow'd, is	21	09	04
Remains only	02	16	00

3. Log-

3. Logwood which comes from our own Plantations pay imported *per* Ton	05	00	00
The Drawback on Exportation, is	04	00	00
Remains	01	00	00

This is ſufficient to ſhew what a vaſt Diſadvantage we lie under, inſomuch that the Art of Dying will be loſt in *England*, without a ſpeedy Prevention; ſince Forreigners dye cheaper with our own Goods than we can our ſelves, which will inevitably be of fatal Conſequence to our Trade, eſpecially, conſidering what Quantities of Cloth, and other Woollen Manufactures, are tranſported White.

After ſuch an Account, who is it that will make any Heſitation to aſſert this Verity, That the Tranſportation of our Woollen Manufacturies (which are very much eſteemed in other Countries, that enrich us with their Commodities) if hindred, will undoubtedly ruin our Trade and Kingdom, by deſtroying thoſe Means which might ſupply our Poor, fill this flouriſhing Nation with Poverty, and deprive the King of great Part of his Revenues. That this was always the Opinion of the moſt honeſt and

thinking Men, will appear from what Sir *Walter Rawleigh* ſaith concerning it; his Words are theſe, in a Letter he wrote to King *James* the Firſt.

May it pleaſe your moſt Excellent Majeſty,

" THERE have been about Fourſcore " thouſand undreſſed and undyed " Cloaths yearly tranſported.

" It is therefore evident, that the Kingdom hath been yearly deprived of about " 400000 *l.* within this five and fifty Years, " which is near twenty Millions that would " have been gained by the Labour of poor " Workmen in that time, with the Merchants Gains for bringing in dying Stuffs, " and Return of Cloaths dreſſed and dyed, " with other Benefits to the Realm, beſides " exceeding Inlarging of Traffick, and Increaſe of Ships and Mariners.

" There would have been gained in that " time about three Millions by Increaſe of " Cuſtom, upon Commodities returned for " Cloaths dreſſed and dyed, and for dying " Stuffs, which would have more plentifully been brought and uſed for the ſame.

" There hath been alſo Tranſported in " that time yearly by Bayſe, Northern and " *Devonſhire* Kerſies White, about 50000 " Cloaths, counting three Kerſies to a Cloth; " whereby hath been loſt above five Milli-

" ons

" ons by those sorts of Cloaths in that time,
" which would have come to poor Work-
" men for their Labour, with the Customs
" for dying Stuffs, and the People's Profit for
" bringing them in, with Returns of other
" Commodities and Freights for Shipping.

" Bayse are transported White into *Am-*
" *sterdam*, and there being dressed and dyed,
" are shipped into *Spain*, *Portugal*, and other
" Kingdoms, where they are sold in the Name
" of Flemish Bayse, setting their own Town-
" Seal upon them, so that we lose the very
" Name of our home-bred Commodities,
" and other Countries get the Reputation
" and Profit thereof. Lamentable it is, that
" this Land should be deprived of so many
" above-mentioned Millions, and that our
" Native Commodities of Cloath, ordained
" by God for the Natural Subjects, being so
" Royal and Rich it self, should be driven
" to so small Advantage of Reputation and
" Profit to your Majesty and People, and so
" much improved and intercepted by Stran-
" gers, considering that God hath enabled
" and given your Majesty Power to advance
" dressing and dying, and transporting of all
" your Cloaths within a Year or two; I
" speak it knowingly, to shew how it may
" be done laudably, lawfully, and appro-
" ved to be honourable, feasible, and profi-
" table.

" All

" All the Companies of your Land tranſ-
" port their Cloaths dreſſed and dyed, to the
" Good of your Kingdom, except the Mer-
" chant Adventurers, whereby the Eaſtland
" and *Turky* Merchants, with other Com-
" panies, do increaſe your Majeſties Cu-
" ſtoms by bringing in, and ſpending dying
" Stuffs, and ſetting your People on Work,
" by dreſſing before they tranſport them;
" and they might increaſe far more Cuſtom
" to your Majeſty, and make more Profit to
" themſelves, and this Realm, and ſet many
" thouſands of poor People more on Work
" for dreſſing and dying, and likewiſe em-
" ploy more Ships and Mariners, for bringing
" in dying Stuffs, were it not for the Mer-
" chant Adventurers, who tranſport their
" Cloaths White, rough, and undreſſed and
" dyed, into the *Low Countries*, where
" they ſell them to the Strangers, who af-
" terwards dreſs, dye, and ſtretch them to
" ſuch unreaſonable Lengths, contrary to
" our Law, that they prevent and fore-ſtall
" our Markets, and croſs the juſt Prohibiti-
" ons of our State and Realm, by their A-
" gents and Factors lying in divers Places
" with our own Cloaths, to the great De-
" cay of this Kingdom in general, and Diſ-
" credit of our Cloaths in particular.

" If this Account were truly known, it
" would be found that they make not

" clear

" clear Profit only by Cloth transported
" rough, undreſſed, and undyed, Sixty thou-
" ſand Pounds a Year: But it is moſt appa-
" rent your Majeſty in your Cuſtoms, your
" Merchants in their Sales and Prices, your
" Subjects in their Labours, for lack of not
" dreſſing and dying, your Ships and Mari-
" ners in not bringing in of dying Stuffs, and
" ſpending of Allum, is hindered yearly
" near a Million of Pounds, ſo that Trade
" is driven to the Hindrance of your Majeſty
" and People, by permitting your Native
" Commodities to paſs rough, undreſſed,
" and undyed, by the Merchant Adventu-
" rer.

Thus far this great Man, whoſe Cha-racter is ſufficient to obtain Authority, as one, who by his great Learning and Travels, together with an accurate Knowledge of the Trade of this Kingdom, had taken all neceſſary Means to ſearch theſe Things to the bottom. Our Misfortunes of this Nature are the ſame to this Day as they were then, we are now ruined by ſome of our own Subjects, who uſe the utmoſt Endeavours to carry off our Wooll unwrought; which leads me to ſhew in the next place the many Frauds and clandeſtine Plots us'd in Exporting of it. This is in a very particular manner carried on by the Owlers in and a-

bout

bout *Rumney* Marſh, in the County of *Kent*, from whence great Quantities of our Wooll have for many Years paſt been clandeſtinely conveyed to *France*, by the Direction and Conſent, not only of the Farmer, but of others of a greater and higher Rank; who having large Poſſeſſions, and being great Breeders of Wooll, are ſo wedded to the Proſpect of ſordid Lucre, that they contrive to have their Wooll conveyed to the Sea-ſide, and put on Board *French* Shallops in the Night-time.

The Fellows employ'd in this Service are ſturdy Robbers of the meaneſt Rank, that have little or nothing to loſe; and when they are diſcovered and taken, their only Puniſhment by Law is a Fine and Impriſonment. One would think an Action ſo pernicious to the Republick ſhould deſerve Death; and accordingly there was an Act made in the 14th Year of the Reign of King *Charles* the Second, which made it Felony; but that Law was never executed upon any one Man.

Among the various Stratagems purſu'd by the Men imploy'd in this clandeſtine Service, I'm inform'd that this is one; they obſerve the Wind and Tide that favours the coming in of the *French* Shallops, and look out from the Cliffs and Rocks to deſcry them; and from theſe Cliffs they frequently throw down

down their Packs and Parcels of Wooll, that they may be in a readineſs for Shipping when the Boats come in.

Sometimes they bribe the Officers, or make them drunk; and notwithſtanding an Act of Parliament made in the 14th of the Reign of King *Charles* the Second, by which all Wooll, Woollen-yarn, and Woollen-flocks, become forfeited, if cloſe packed by Screws, and other unlawful Engines into Burs, Pipes, Hogſheads, Casks, Bags, &c. yet of late Years great Quantities of our fineſt combed Wooll for making Stuffs, Stockings, &c. for the Spaniſh *Weſt-Indies*, have been ſhip'd off at *Billingſgate*, and other free Wharfs, for Butter, Herrings, and other free uncuſtomed Goods, and to prevent a Diſcovery which might happen by the Lightneſs, they have put into the Casks, Lead or Shot: It hath likewiſe been wrapped up and ſtowed between the Folds of Bayes and other Goods.

Nay, they have likewiſe gone ſo far, as to receive Money of the Cuſtom-houſe for its Tranſportation, I mean by the Drawbacks upon Tobacco and Dying Wares; for they have often ſtowed a Barrel of Wooll in the middle of an Hogſhead of Tobacco, and by ramming the Tobacco hard at the Bottom, Sides and Top, prevent a Diſcovery, and not only on this have they done it, but in

Copperas and Indigo, as ſome now living can certify who were formerly employ'd in ſuch Deſigns. Theſe are not bare Surmiſes, but real Matters of Fact, and certainly ought to be taken Care of by the Searchers and other Officers employ'd in inſpecting theſe Frauds practiced in Goods exported. It is alſo very credibly reported, that no ſmall Quantities are commonly tranſported to *France* under Coals.

Before I conclude this ſhort Repreſentation of the Frauds and Stratagems us'd in Exporting our Wooll, I ſhall take Notice in a particular manner of the City of *Canterbury*, where the Generality of thoſe employ'd in the Working our Wooll are *French* Refugees, or ſuch as act under them; for ſuch is the Corruption of that Place, that a few Years ago, being there, I cauſed a Liſt to be taken of all the Maſter Combers in the City, and upon conſulting with one of them, who had been a fair Trader, upon an impartial Computation, he charg'd above one third part of them to have been Tranſporters of Wooll to *France*, and other Forreign Parts.

In the time of the late War, when the Laws were ſo ſevere in the Penalties upon all that ſhould correſpond with *France*, and this Tranſportation of Wooll, and runing of *French* Goods, could not be practiced

ced without evident Danger. Nevertheleſs theſe Men I am now ſpeaking of, found ſeveral Ways to elude the Dint of thoſe Penalties. To mention but one of a great many, they took great Quantities of Wooll, and put them on Board ſome of our own Veſſels or Boats, and when they heard of any *French* Privateers upon the Coaſt, put out to Sea, and made Signals to them; upon which the Privateer us'd to make up to them under the Counterfeit of a Chace, and after ſome mock firing, boarded the Wooll Veſſel, and ſo carried her to *France*, as if ſhe were a Prize. When they came to any Port in *France*, the Owlers exchanged their Wooll for Brandy, Linnen, Cloth, and other Commodities; with theſe they us'd to freight their own Veſſel, and ſo ſteal home again, and run the Goods. This ſome of them have confeſſed upon Conviction; and own'd withal, that the Profit they make of a Pack of Wooll in *France* is ſo conſiderable, that if they eſcape being taken but three times in five, they are ſtill Gainers.

It being now made very perſpicuous beyond Diſpute, that the greateſt Advantage *England* hath, ariſeth from the Woollen Manufactury, which gives her the Superiority over other Nations, inricheth her Subjects, and ſupplieth the Poor; and that this Trade

once loſt, makes our Happineſs irrecoverable. It remains now, that I lay before you the Methods which have been taken to prevent this growing Evil; the only ſure and effectual Means to prevent the Exportation of Wooll, is the Encouraging the Commiſſioners already appointed by Act of Parliament, to be vigilent in exerting their Authority, by allotting them ſuch Proviſions and Salaries as may enable them to employ and reward Officers.

This Power was firſt lodg'd in the Commiſſioners of the Cuſtoms, who, by Vertue of Acts of Parliament made in the 12th and 14th Years of King *Charles* the Second, iſſued forth Orders to their chief Officers in their reſpective Ports, to inſpect and prevent the Exportation of Wooll. But ſo it was, that either through the Careleſsneſs, or through the Corruption of many of theſe Officers, the Exportation was ſtill practiced with Impunity; inſomuch that upon the Death of King *Charles* the Second, the Clothiers of ſeveral of the Clothing Counties, Petitioned King *James* the Second for the Redreſs of ſuch a crying Grievance: Upon which, he gave a Commiſſion by Letters Patents under the Privy-Seal, in the fourth Year of his Reign, to ſeveral Perſons in and about the Cities of *London* and *Weſtminſter*, bearing Date *June* 24th.

The

The Commiſſion was directed to the Governours, Deputy-Governours, and Treaſurers of the Merchant Adventurers of *England*, commonly called the *Hamborough Company*.

In Purſuance of this Commiſſion, the ſaid Commiſſioners met in *London* at *Founders*-Hall, in *Lothbury*, Weekly, and gave Orders for the Fitting out of ſeveral Shallops for Cruiſing, and appointed Land Officers to have Inſpection upon the Coaſt of the County of *Kent*, who were frequently diſturbed in the Exerciſe of their Office, by conſiderable Numbers of *French* that came armed aſhore to guard and cover the Exporters. Upon this a Troop of Horſe was ſent down to aſſiſt the Officers, but what Aſſiſtance they gave, was chiefly to the Owlers, who brib'd them to connive at the Exportation of the Wooll: Nay, there is good ground to believe that they not only conniv'd at that clandeſtine Practice, but left their Stable-doors open, upon Compact with the Expoſtors, to give them an Opportunity of making uſe of their Horſes in the Night-time, for conveying the Wooll to the Sea-ſide, where the Shallops lay ready to receive it.

In fine, the ſaid Commiſſioners having expended many Hundred Pounds of their own more than was Collected, and ſeeing no likelihood of being either reimburs'd, or procuring a ſufficient Sum to anſwer the Charge

of

of carrying on ſo important a Work, did deſiſt from Acting.

Matters being come to this paſs, the Clothiers of the Weſtern Parts repreſented their Caſe in a Petition unto the King and Council, who thereupon ordered the Commiſſioners of the Cuſtoms to make a Report to the Committee of Trade of their Opinion relating to that Affair.

The Report was as follows.

May it pleaſe your Lordſhips,

BY an Order of his Majeſty in Council, ſignified to us by Sir *John Nickolus*, upon the Petition of the Commiſſioners appointed by his late Majeſty for the Preventing the Exportation of Wooll; complaining that great Quantities of Wooll are daily Tranſported to *France*, by loading it on Privateers Commiſſioned againſt the *Hollanders*, which, by reaſon of the Strength and Number of Offenders, they are not able to ſuppreſs. And therefore Praying that ſome Means may be uſed for preventing this Practice for the future.

His Majeſty being pleas'd to refer the Conſideration thereof to us, requiring us to Report to the Right Honourable the Committee of Trade and Plantations, what Remedy we

we conceive moſt proper to put a Stop to that growing Miſchief ſo prejudicial to the Trade and Welfare of this Kingdom.

We humbly Report, That it hath been the conſtant Opinion of this Board, that the Preventing the Exportation of Wooll, is a Matter of great Moment and Conſideration, as well to the Revenue of Cuſtoms, as to the Trade and Welfare of this Kingdom; and ſo do humbly acquaint your Lordſhips, that ſince the Year 1685, the Crown hath been, and is, at an extraordinary Expence of Seven or Eight Hundred Pounds *per Ann.* at leaſt out of the Revenues of the Cuſtoms in the maintaining of Veſſels at Sea in that Service, beſides an Allowance of a Moiety of the King's Forfeitures of all Wooll ſeized, and all other Forfeitures by the Act for the Preventing the Exportation thereof, as a Bounty for the Encouragement of ſuch as ſhould Seize or make a Diſcovery of the Fraud relating thereto. And becauſe that Expence and Bounty from the Crown was not found ſufficient to undertake and carry on the Charge of the ſaid Service, his late Majeſty was pleaſed, upon the Petition of the Clothiers and Factors, and from the Report from this Board to your Lordſhips, to iſſue out the aforeſaid Commiſſion to prevent the Exportation of Wooll, to certain

Perſons

Perſons to Collect a voluntary Contribution towards the ſame. And if the ſaid Commiſſion be determined, it is the Opinion of this Board, that the Laws prohibiting the Exportation of Wooll, cannot be duly put in Execution, and the Evil effectually prevented, without ſome Perſons Commiſſioned as before, fit to be truſted with a Matter of this Nature, be employed therein, with a conſiderable Supply of Money to be expended by them in the ſaid Service, Two or three thouſand Pound *per Ann.* at leaſt, over and above all Fines and Forfeitures; and in the mean time we conceive it will conduce much to the Service aforeſaid, if his Majeſty ſhould be pleaſed by his Royal Proclamation to revive the Proclamation which was made by his late Majeſty touching this Matter.

Cuſtom-Houſe, London
March the 4th, 1689.

Tho. Worden,
Dudly North,
Will. Culliford,
} Commiſſioners.

This was only intended for the County of *Kent*; for the Weſt and Northern Counties had not then ſo much Knowledge of the Exporting Trade as they have now.

By

By this Report, 'tis apparent that the Commiſſioners of the Cuſtoms then in being, were highly ſenſible from their own Experience, of the great Difficulty and Charge of preventing the Exportation of Wooll; particularly they found *Rumney* Marſh, and the other Places on the Coaſt of *Kent*, very hard to be guarded; and their chief Endeavours were levell'd upon that Coaſt.

In ſhort, they found their Officers very remiſs in doing their Duty. At laſt the Clothiers from ſeveral Counties repreſented the Grievance to the Parliament, and the Report above-mentioned being taken into Conſideration, a Bill was prepar'd and brought in for the more effectual preventing the Exportation of Wooll, which paſſed into an Act in the firſt Year of the Reign of King *William* and Queen *Mary*.

In the Preamble of that Act, the Remiſsneſs and Negligence of the Cuſtom-houſe Officers employ'd, is taken Notice of to be of very bad Conſequence, tending to the Ruin and Undoing of many of the Subjects, and the great Diminution of the Trade of this Kingdom.

In this Act, particular and ſeperate Commiſſioners were appointed for preventing the Exportation of Wooll, Fullers Earth, *&c.* The Perſons nominated for that End in the Act, were Perſons of known Integrity, and

Intereſted in, and zealous Promoters of the Woollen Manufacture; but for want of Money to defray the Charges of Officers, and carrying on Proſecutions, *&c.* they were forced to decline acting for ſome Years, till at laſt the Exportation became ſo open and barefac'd, not only in *Kent* and *Suſſex*, but alſo upon the Borders of *Scotland*, and in ſeveral Maritime Counties of this Kingdom, that the Merchants and Clothiers of the Northern Parts made preſſing Solicitations to Sir *Henry Gooderick*, a *Yorkſhire* Gentleman, and Privy-Counſeller, one of the Commiſſioners nominated in the Act, to call together a Meeting of the Commiſſioners for applying ſome Remedy to that reigning Evil, and giving the neceſſary Orders to put the Laws in Execution. Purſuant to their repeated Requeſt, that worthy Gentleman did forthwith procure a Meeting of ſuch of the Commiſſioners as were then in and about the City of *London*. They met at the *Guild-Hall* of *London*, *July* 22d, 1698. And conſidering that they had no Proviſion of Money for defraying the Charges of Officers, (upon which Head, the King in Council had been Petitioned, and the Matters referr'd to the Lords of the Treaſury) they immediately drew up the following Repreſentation to the Lords of the Treaſury.

May

May it pleaſe your Lordſhips,

SEveral of the Commiſſioners appointed for preventing the Exportation of Wooll, &c. having met this Day at *Guild-Hall*, in order to the putting the ſaid Acts in Execution, have agreed unanimouſly humbly to Repreſent to your Lordſhips Conſideration the preſſing Neceſſity of your Lordſhips taking ſuch favourable Reſolutions upon the Reference lately made by his Majeſty in full Council, to a Petition ſigned by ſeveral Merchants and eminent Traders of this City to the Ends above-mentioned, which we preſume e're this time, is laid before your Lordſhips.

And we are the more embolden'd hereunto by the frequent and certain Informations we have received, that great Quantities of Wooll have lately been Tranſported into Foreign Parts, and much more thereof is probably prepared for the ſame End, to the great Diſcouragement of the Woollen Manufacture.

Our Duty obliges us to this Repreſentation, and our ſelves to be

Your Lordſhips moſt humble Servants,

Guild-Hall, London
July 26, 1698.

Sir Henry Gooderick, *Chairman, and the*
of the Privy-Council.

Sir William Aſhurſt, *Kt.*
Sir Benjamen Ayſoff, *Kt.* & *Bart.*
Sir John Fleet, *Kt.*
Sir William Gore, *Kt.*
Sir Gabirel Roberts, *Kt.*
Nathaniel Tench, *Eſq;*
Thomas Crundell,
John Busfield,
John Haines,
Edward Bickley,
Richard Harriſon,
Philip Bickley.

Thoſe Commiſſioners being deeply ſenſible of the great Quantities of Wooll tranſported, and of the Conſequences which muſt of Neceſſity follow, did ſend out Officers into all the Maritime Counties, who made ſeveral Seizures, which upon Trial, being proved to be legally made, the Wooll was condemned, and the King's Moiety paid.

But the Cuſtom-houſe Officers in ſeveral Counties, eſpecially Northward, where was moſt Danger, rather diſcouraged than aſſiſted them in the legal Diſcharge of their Duty, which, by the Act of Parliament, they were commanded to do.

Upon Notice thereof to their Commiſſioners, a Complaint was by them made to the Commiſſioners of Cuſtoms, who were thereupon pleaſed to write to their chief Officers

Officers in the Sea Coasts of *England* in the Year 1698. as follows, *viz.*

Gentlemen,

THE Commissioners appointed by Act of Parliament, made in the First Year of King *William* and Queen *Mary*, for the better Preventing the Exportation of Wooll, and Encouraging the Woollen Manufactures of this Kingdom, were by the said Act impowered to put that, and other Acts, against the Exportation of Wooll in Execution, and having desired a Concurrence and Assistance of our Officers, and also as Occasion shall require, the Inspection of the Books and Register kept in the Custom house relating to the Passage of any Wooll from one Place to another, we think the same reasonable; and being desirous, as much as in us lies, to contribute to the Publick Good, and preventing the Exportation of Wooll, &c. desire and direct that you give the said Commissioners and their Agents Countenance and Assistance on all Occations for the Service aforesaid; and an Account from time to time of all that shall be transacted in the Custom-house, in relation to passing Wooll from one Place to another; and if need be, the Inspection of the Books and Register relating thereunto, and that you give the same in Charge to the Officers in your Port.

The

The Commiſſioners of Wooll fitted out a ſmall Sloop of about 40 Tun, who ſiez'd ſeveral *French* and *Engliſh* Ships with Wooll conſign'd for *France*, (beſides ſeveral Boats in the River) and by the Commanders Induſtry, took more in nine Months, than all the other Veſſels imploy'd on the ſame Account, did, in ſeveral Years, as can be eaſily demonſtrated; and the Commiſſioners were very well pleaſed that they had taken ſuch a Method as gave ſuch Certainty of its good Effects. But the want of Money, which might be inſtrumental to ſtrengthen ſuch a Buſineſs, forced them to drop it, tho' they had often petitioned for Supplies, and as often received fair Promiſes which proved abortive. Neither can it be ſuppos'd that the Commiſſioners laid down this Undertaking through Puſillaminity, but the many Hundred Pounds, which they had ſpent in the bringing it to a good Effect, and the many Meetings they had upon this Occaſion, without obtaining any Aſſiſtance, induced them to deſiſt from ſo great and chargable a Project.

It is undoubtedly certain, that theſe Commiſſioners, if they had met with ſuitable Encouragement, had been able to have prevented the Exportation with much leſs Charge and Facility; which will plainly appear, if we review the Methods taken by the

the Government, which were ineffectual, tho' much more expensive. In the Seventh and Eighth Years of King *William*, 'twas enacted, That the then Lord High Admiral, or the Commissioners for Executing that Office, should direct and appoint one Fifth Rate, two Sixth Rates, and four armed Sloops to cruise constantly from the North Foreland to the Isle of *Wight*, with Orders to take and seize all Ships, Vessels, or Boats, that offer'd to export any Wooll, or carry or bring any prohibited Goods, or suspected Persons. In pursuance of this Order, those Ships and Sloops were accordingly fitted out, and the Kingdom was at a very great annual Expence in maintaining them. There was also establish'd by Warrant from the Right Honourable the Lords of the Treasury, three Sloops, in the Month of *March*, 1697, which also proved both chargable and ineffectual. In *January*, 1698-9, the Parliament order'd the Admiralty to lay before them an Account of the yearly Charge of each of those Frigates and Sloops, for Wages, Victuals, Ware and Tare, exclusive of the Charge of the Office of Ordnance. Accordingly an Account was given in, relating both to the Frigates and Sloops, fitted out by Warrant from the Lords of the Treasury and Admiralty, the annual Charge of the whole amounts to 29016 *l.* 7 *s.*

Further,

Further, in the 10th and 11th Years of the Reign of King *William*, an Act was made for preventing the Exportation of Wooll out of the Kingdoms of *England* and *Ireland* into Foreign Parts; by which it was enacted, That the Lord High Admiral ſhould direct and appoint two Ships of the Fifth Rate, and two Ships of the Sixth Rate, and eight armed Sloops, conſtantly to cruiſe on the Coaſt of *England* and *Ireland*, particularly betwixt the North of *Ireland* and *Scotland*, for preventing the Exportation of Wooll from *Ireland* into *Scotland*, *France*, and other Foreign Parts; in which Act very large Rewards are given to the Officers and Mariners for ſeizing of Wooll intended for Tranſportation, which Charge we may rationally ſuppoſe amounted to 25000 *l. per Ann.* which added to the other Charge of Frigates and Sloops, amounts to more than 50000 *l. per Ann.*

It is the Opinion of many judicious Merchants, that the former Commiſſioners by the Methods they took, would have done more Service, and prevented the Exportation of far greater Quantities of Wooll, if they had but 30000 *l. per Ann.* ſettled upon them by the Government.

I ſhall

The Loſs ſuſtained by the Officers, for want upon Seizals, Replevies, and

BY 479 Packs of Wool reſcued from them, to the Hazard o
By Perſonal Informations enter'd in the Court of Exchequ
Exporting 2893 Pack of Wool, which would have amounted t
of the 7th and 8th Years of King *William*'s Reign, for the Penalt
Pound Weight, 36 Pounds per Pack, *viz.* —— —— —— —

N. B. The Officers met with great Diſcouragements from
cially *Northumberland* and the Biſhoprick of *Durham*, by being i
viz. Sir *Francis Blake*, then Member of Parliament, Juſtice *Ho*

Note, That of 3791 Packs of Wool ſeized, there was but
was either reſcued, or not proſecuted for want of Money.
to 744 l. Two thirds of which was ſpent in Proſecutions, and
that the Officers had no more than 248 l. The Sloop took 80
Moſt of which after condemn'd at the Captain's Charge upo
in the Cuſtom-Houſe Ware-Houſes, being refuſed to be deliv
paid; which *Edwards* the Maſter of the Sloop was render'd u
carrying on Proſecutions againſt the Offenders, *&c.*

In Page 34, and 35, you will find what preſſing Solicitatio
from the Government, for paying Salleries to their Officers
Charges that attended their frequent Meetings for putting the

From all which Inſtances, it appears, that the moſt acceptab
was owing to them and their Officers; and is to be hop
Government, would have effectually prevented that per
Pounds *per Annum* to the Government, *&c.*

r want of Money to carry on Profecutions
, and Perſonal Informations.

	l.	s.	d.
Hazard of their Lives	2705	0	0
Exchequer againſt ſundry Perſons, for mounted to, if proſecuted on the Statute the Penalty of Three Shillings for every	688320	0	0
Total	716025	0	0

nents from Juſtices of the Peace in ſeveral Counties, eſpe-
by being impriſon'd, and legal Seizures taken from them,
Juſtice *Howard*, *Forſter*, *Taylor*, *Gray*, *Colingwood*.

was but 162 condemned in the Exchequer, the Remain
Money. The Recoveries on thoſe condemn'd, amounted
tions, and the Moiety given by Law to the Crown; ſo
p took 80 Packs of Wool, which was apprais'd at 402 l.
Charge upon Tryals in the Court of Exchequer, lies now
o be delivered until the Moiety due to the Crown, was
render'd unable to do, having expended his Subſtance in

Solicitations the Commiſſioners made to obtain Money
Officers for their Services, and defraying the neceſſary
tting the Laws in Execution.

ſt acceptable and beneficial Services done to the Publick,
to be hoped, that had they received Money from the
that pernicious Evil, and brought in many Thouſand

A LIST of the Number of Surveyers and R
appointed by Act of Parliament made in the
Queen *Mary*, for preventing the Exportation
they were poſted in, what Seiſures of Woo
with the Difficulties they underwent in that
entering Informations, as alſo carrying on P
the Court of Exchequer.

Surveyors.	Counties under their Charge.	Number of riding Officers.	Packs of Wooll ſeiz'd.	What apprais'd at.
Capt. William Ingram, *Sen.*	*Northumberland*, *Durham*, *Cumberland*	54	105	530
Wm Ingram, *jun.*	*Yorkſhire*	18	46	236
Rob. Moore	*Lincolnſhire*	19	38	214
Rob. Carter	*Lancaſhire*	10	6	56
Tho. Braine	*Cheſhire*	7	3	16
Rob. Barker	*Norfolk*	16	6	35
John Stokes	*Suffolk*	9	4	22
Edw. Nordeh	*Eſſex*	9	29	146
John Hamilton	*Surrey*	4	6	33
Edw. Anderſon	*Kent*	36	65	362
Cha. Webb	*Suſſex*	20	26	148
Sam. Spicer	*Hampſhire*	28	55	306
Wm. Whotten	*Dorſetſhire*	16	11	62
Chriſ. Polard	*Devon*	12	14	79
Wm. Syms	*Cornwall*	14	12	68
John Larton	*Somerſet* and *Briſtol*	12	9	52
John Hughs	*London* and *Middleſex*	15	22	126
17	19	299	457	3791

The Charge the Commiſſioners fo

To Poſtage of Letters from their Officers ——————

To their Secretary, Clerks, Meſſengers, and Doorkeepers ——

To the Coſt of a ſmall Sloop, and fitting it out to Sea for cru
the Charge of Victualling, Wages, Ware and Tare ——
Commanded by Capt. *John Edwards*. See his Services *Fol.*

To 17 Superviſers or Chief Agents, at 120 l. *per Annum* each

To 299 Riding Officers, at 60 l. *per Annum* ——————

ers and Riding Officers, deputed by the Commiſſioners
ade in the Firſt Year of the Reign of King *William* and
xportation of Wooll and Yarn, *&c.* With the Counties
of Wooll was made by them, and the Value thereof;
nt in that Service, as well as Charge in obtaining and
ing on Proſecutions againſt the Exporters of Wooll in

of	What apprais'd at.	Number of Packs condemn'd.	Recovery thereupon.	Packs reſcued from the Officers.	The Value of the Wooll reſcu'd from the Officers.	Officers Expences annually in keeping themſelves and Horſes, at 60 l. per Ann.
	530	57	140	236	1262 l.	3240 l.
	236	6	35	53	275	1080
	214			41	246	1140
	56			12	72	600
	16					420
	35	5	30	36	198	960
	22	4	23			540
	146	20	105	5	30	540
	33	6	32	8	44	240
	362	8	44	45	270	2160
	148	12	72	21	126	1200
	306	12	72	6	36	1680
	62	6	34			960
	79	7	42			720
	68	6	33	4	24	840
	52	5	36	25	150	720
	126	8	46	12	72	900
	3791	162	744	504	2705	17940

	l.	s.	d.
miſſioners for Wool were at annually, *VIZ.*			
	43	0	0
rkeepers	180	0	0
o Sea for cruiſing on the Coaſt of *Kent* and *Suſſex*, and with Tare	676	0	0
Services *Fol.* 38.			
Annum each Man	2040	0	0
	17940	0	0
Total	20878	0	

I ſhall proceed to recite the Laws already made for the Redreſs of this Grievance, and ſhew wherein they were defective, and humbly offer ſome Methods, which faithfully follow'd, may put a Stop to this egregious Evil.

An ABSTRACT *of ſix Statutes now in Force againſt Exporting Wooll, Wooll-fells, Yarn made of Wooll, Fullers Earth, Fulling-Clay, and Tobacco-Pipe Clay, out of* England *and* Ireland *into Foreign Parts, &c.*

Anno 12 *Car.* II. *Regis.*

NO Perſon to Export Sheeps Wooll, *&c.* out of *England*, *Ireland*, or any Iſles thereunto belonging, into *Scotland*, or any Foreign Parts.

Penalties for Sheep Exporting, or Intended to be Exported 20 *l.* Forfeiture for each, and 3 *l.* for every Pound of Wooll, Wooll-

fells, Mortnings, Shorlings, Yarn made of Wooll, Wooll-flocks, Fullers-Earth and Fulling-Clay.

Owners Forfeit the Ship and Furniture; Maſter and Sailors willingly Aiding, Forfeit all Goods and Chattels, and Three Years Impriſonment without Bail, one Moiety of *ditto* to the King, and the other to the Proſecutors.

Merchants Offenders diſabled from Recovering their Debts from their Factors.

Greater Penalties in former Acts, not hereby taken away.

Offences Triable in the County where the Seizures made, or Offenders apprehended.

Proſecution to be within one Year after the Offence committed.

Any Perſons may Seize the Forfeitures, and have one Moiety.

No Seizer may be an Evidence againſt the Offender.

Ship Forfeited, if the Owner an Alien, or not dwelling in *England*.

Proviſo's, Lamb-Skins ready dreſs'd, Wooll-fells, or Fells with Wooll upon them, Beds ſtuffed with Flocks, uſed in any Veſſel, Sheep carried for Victualling excepted; and 2000 Tods of Unkembed Wooll to *Jerſey*, 1000 to *Guernſey*, 200 to *Alderney*, and 100 to *Sark* in one Year, for their own Uſe; but the Parties

ties Exporting hereof are to give Bond to the King, and have Licences under the Hand and Seal of the reſpective Governours of thoſe Iſlands, who ſhall Forfeit their Places, and 100 *l.* if they permit any greater Quantity than before ſpecified, and ſuch Governours of their Officers to receive 12 *d.* for every Licence, and no more, under the Penalty of 5 *s.* for every Licence.

Anno 14 Caroli II. *Regis.*

NO Perſon to Export Sheep, Wooll, &c. out of *England* or *Ireland*, into *Scotland*, or any Foreign Parts.

Penalties, All Offenders adjudged Felons.

Offences Triable in the County where Seizers are made, or Offenders apprehended.

Peers Offending to be Tried by Peers.

Proſecution within one Year after the Offence committed.

No Perſon to uſe Screws, Preſſes, or Engines wherewith to preſs Wooll cloſe in any Veſſel, or Wrapper, to conceal and export it: All found ſo preſs'd and pack'd up, Forfeited.

No Tobacco-pipe Clay to be Exported under 3 *s. per* Pound.

No Packs of Wooll to be carried or conveyed in *England* or *Ireland*, from one Place to another, but in the Day-time, *viz.* from the 1ſt of *March* to the 29th of *September*, between four in the Morning and eight at Night; and from the 29th of *September* to the 1ſt of *March*, between 7 in the Morning and 5 in the Evening, under Penalty of Forfeiting one Moiety to the King, and the other Moiety to the Proſecutor, of the Value of all ſuch Wooll carried at any other times.

Proviſo's, This Act not to be conſtrued to repeal any Penalty, or Proviſo's made in the former Act, 12 *Car.* 2.

Owners of Veſſels, Maſter, and Mariner diſcovering within three Months after their Knowledge of any Offences againſt this and the former Act, ſhall be acquitted of Felony, but not of the other Penalties.

Juſtices of Aſſize, of Goal-delivery, and of the Peace at Quarter-Seſſions, and Mayors, and Head Officers of Towns, may hear and determine all Offences within this Act, not made Felony.

Anno

Anno 1 Gulielmi & Mariæ.

ALL Owners of Wooll or their Agents intending to convey Wooll from Port to Port within *England*, ſhall enter the Weight, Marks and Number of the ſame, before they load or carry ſuch Wooll within five Miles of the Sea Coaſt.

Penalties, The Wooll not entered, as aforeſaid, the Carriages and Horſes, &c. wherewith conveyed, to be Forfeited, and the Perſons driving, aiding, and aſſiſting, to ſuffer the Penalties, in the former Acts provided, as Forfeiture of Goods and Chattels, and three Years Impriſonment.

Owners may carry Home their Wooll from Places were Shorn, provided they Certifie within ten Days the Officer of the Cuſtoms in the neareſt Port, of the Number of the Fleeces, and where Houſed: But may not remove Wooll without Certifying ſuch Officer three Days before; which Officers are obliged to keep a Regiſter of ſuch Certificates; and if ſuch Certificate be not made in manner aforeſaid, the Penalties forementioned are incurred.

Cocquets for Wooll to be carried from Port to Port, to be written on Paper, and ſigned by the three Chief Officers of the Port; which *Officers neglecting their Duty, in this*

Act

Act expreſſed, adjudged Aiders; and to ſuffer as ſuch, Forfeiture of Goods and Chattels, and three Years Impriſonment, without Bail.

Ports of Export and Import.

Commiſſioners appointed to ſee this and all other Laws relating to the Wooll, &c. duly executed.

Owners of Ships, Maſter, or Mariner, diſcovering within three Months upon Oath before the Barons of the Exchequer, three of the Commiſſioners for Wooll, or the Chief Officer of any Port, and proving the ſame, pardoned, and entituled to the Forfeitures.

A Regiſter to be kept at the Cuſtom-houſe, *London*, of Wooll Imported from *Ireland*, and of Wooll ſent to and from any Port of *England, of which the Commiſſioners for Wooll may have Inſpection and Copies.*

Proviſo's, Woollen Manufactures may be Exported; and from *Southampton* only, ſuch Quantities of Unkembed Wooll to *Guernſey*, *Jerſey*, *Sark*, *Alderney*, as are ſpecified in an Act, 12 *Car.* 2. under further Penalties.

Anno

Anno 7 & 8 Gulielmi III. *Regis.*

ACT 1 W. & M. *continued*, ſaving a Clauſe, that makes Exportation Felony, repeal'd.

Other Ports of Import of Wooll from *Ireland* to *England*, beſides thoſe named 1 *W.* & *M.*

Commiſſioners of Cuſtoms in *Ireland* to ſend every ſix Months to the Commiſſioners of Cuſtoms in *England*, an Account of Wooll exported from the Places aforeſaid.

Certificates to be on Paper, and not Raſed or Interlined.

No Wooll, Wooll-fells, &c. to be loaded or carried within five Miles of the Borders of *Scotland*; but between Sun-riſing and Sun-ſetting, and no Ships to Export them.

Penalties, Horſes, Carriages and Commodities forfeited, the Ship and ſuch Goods, with treble the Value thereof, and treble the Coſts of Suit. And further Penalty upon the Hundred and Port where carried or exported, of 20 *l.* if the Wooll be under the Value of 10 *l.* but if of greater Value, then treble that Value to be forfeited.

Execution to be had againſt two or more Perſons inhabiting any Hundred or Port aforeſaid.

Aiders and Abettors, ſhall ſuffer three Years Impriſonment without Bail.

Owners

Owners and their Aiders to anſwer treble the Value of the Penalties charged on the Inhabitants within the Hundred or Port aforeſaid; and treble Coſts of Suit.

Jury to be of any other County than that wherein the Fact was committed.

The three firſt Aiders informing, indemnify'd.

Penalty of five Years Impriſonment upon Perſons compounding with Hundreds or Ports; who may be Sued for the ſame Forfeitures, as if no Compoſition had been made.

Admiralty to appoint Cruizers who may ſeize all Veſſels Exporting Wooll, *&c.*

Anno 9 & 10 Gulielmi III. *Regis.*

ACT *of* 7 W. 3. *continued.*

No Fullers-Earth or Scouring-Clay to be Exported out of *England* into *Scotland*, *Ireland*, or any Foreign Parts.

Penalty of one Shilling for every Pound Exported.

All Owners of Wooll, Shorn or Hous'd in *Kent* and *Suſſex*, within ten Miles of the Sea, ſhall give Notice three Days before removal of it, to the Cuſtom-Officers of the next Port, and take a Certificate from them.

Penalty,

Penalty, all Wooll not so entred, or removed without Certificate, to be forfeited, and 3 *s. per* Pound besides.

All Owners of Wooll residing within fifteen Miles of the Sea in *Kent* and *Sussex*, shall first give Bond to the King, that they will not Sell the same within fifteen Miles of the Sea.

Penalties, Such Wooll not enter'd may be seized, and 3 *s.* in the Pound forfeited besides.

Wooll removed a second time in the Counties aforesaid, after Housed, shall be seized, and 3 *s.* for every Pound forfeited.

Persons who claim unenter'd Wooll, to give good Security to pay treble Costs and Damages above the Penalties and Forfeitures aforesaid.

Agents and Supervisors, how to defend themselves, if Sued for putting this Act in Execution.

Forfeitures by this Act one Third to the King, and two Thirds to the Suer or Prosecutor.

Prosecution may be in three Years after the Offence committed.

All Owners of Wooll within 15 Miles of *Scotland*, to give the Number of their Fleeces, where Housed, to Persons appointed to receive the Account, by the first of *W.* & *M.* and not remove any Wooll without their Licence.

Penalties, all unentered and unlicensed Wooll Forfeited, and 3 *s.* besides for every Pound.

Winchelsea Hundred in respect of this Act to be deem'd two Hundreds.

Anno 10 & 11 Gulielmi III. *Regis.*

NO Person to Export out of *Ireland*, but only into *England* or *Wales* any Wooll, Wooll-fells, Shorlings, Mortlings, Woollflocks, Worsted, Bay or Woollen-Yarn, Cloth, Serge, Bays, Kerseys, and Frizes, Druggets, Cloth-Serges, Shalloons, or other Drapery Stuffs, or Woollen Manufactures.

Penalties, the Wooll, *&c.* so Exported, *&c.* to be Forfeited, and five hundred Pounds for each Offence. The Ship, *&c.* to be Forfeited with all her Tackle. The Masters, Mariners, Porters, &c. assisting, to Forfeit 40 *l.* one Moiety to the Prosecutor in *England* or *Ireland*, the other to the Linnen Manufacture in *Ireland*.

Acquittals or Indictments in *Ireland*, no Bar to Prosecutions here.

Any Persons may Seize and Convey to the King's next Ware-house all such Wooll, &c. and the Ship may also be seized.

Bond

Bond to be given for Wooll, &c. from *Ireland*, under Penalty of forfeiting the Ship.

A Register to be kept at the Custom-house, *London*, of the Wooll, &c. so Imported.

Cockets and Warrants for Transporting such Goods from *Ireland*, shall be written on Paper and Sign'd, and the Certificates of Landing, sign'd also by three of the Port Officers. The Goods to be search'd both at Shipping and Landing: And the Quantities, Qualities, &c. Indorsed on the Cockets, Warrants and Certificates.

The Quantities and Qualities of such Goods and Duplicates of the Bonds, &c. to be transmitted from *Ireland* to *England*.

The Certificates to be written on Paper, and not Obliterated or Interlined.

Such Goods shall be Exported only from *Dublin*, *Waterford*, *Youghall*, *Kingsale*, *Cork* and *Drogheda*, and Imported only at *Biddiford*, *Barnstable*, *Minhead*, *Bridgewater*, *Bristol*, *Milford-Haven*, *Chester* and *Liverpool*.

Commissioners and Officers in *Ireland* offending against this Act, forfeit Office and 500 *l.*

The Offences upon this Act to be Tried where the Goods are Shipped, or where the Offender or Ships are seized.

Persons Sued to plead the General Issue, &c. and to have treble Costs.

Lawful to Import Wooll, &c. from *Dublin*, &c. to *Biddiford*, &c. Notice being given thereof, and Bond in treble the Value, and a Licence taken for Landing thereof.

Forfeiture of the Bonds for Wooll, &c. so Exported, not assignable.

The Admiralty to appoint Cruizers to seize all Ships Exporting Wooll to Foreign Parts.

Wooll, Ships, &c. so Seized, to be Condemned and Sold by Inch of Candle, with the Guns, Tackle, &c. one fourth part to the Commander, another to the Officers, another to the Mariners, the other to the King.

Commanders of Ships offending herein to forfeit their Pay, suffer six Months Imprisonment, and incapable of Serving in the Navy.

After the first of *December*, 1699. the Wooll, &c. of the *English* Plantations in *America*, not to be laid on Board any Ship there, or loaden on any Horse, Cart, &c. to be Exported thence to any Place whatsoever, under the Penalties and Forfeitures for the like Offences in *Ireland*: And the Governors, &c. of the Plantations, are to put this Act in Execution.

Persons offending against this Act, or any other, for preventing the Exportation of Wooll, to be prosecuted in any the Courts at *Westminster*.

The

The Lords Juſtices of *Ireland* to direct, That the Judges in *Ireland* give this Act in Charge at the Aſſizes, which Judges are to take Account of the Execution thereof, and acquaint the Lords Juſtices therewith, who ſhall lay an Account thereof yearly before the King in Council.

The next Thing under Conſideration is the Deficiency of the Laws already made.

1. The want of a Fund to defray the Charge of proſecuting Offenders, and fully executing the Laws.

2. The Proſecutions not being at the Charge of the Crown.

3. The want of Corporal Puniſhment, as well as Fine and Impriſonment.

4. Want of ſuitable Rewards to the Diſcoverers.

5. Not reſtraining Water Carriage.

6. Not leſſening the Quantities allowed to the Iſlands of *Guernſey* and *Jerſey*.

7. The want of Regiſtring Wooll, eſpecially in all the Counties on the Sea Coaſts, and brought for Sale to Publick Markets, and not ſold in private Contracts, &c.

8. That the ſame Care be taken in *Ireland* as in *Great Britain*, both by Land and Sea.

9. For

9. And laſtly, For want of ſmall Sloops to ſearch into Creeks, and the Entrance of Navigable Rivers leading to the Sea, &c.

Before I enter upon my Propoſals, it may not be amiſs to ſhew the Advantages the *French* reap by our Wool in the many Manufactures they have ſucceſsfully ſet up to our Loſs, without which, 'tis impoſſible to be carry'd on: All this is not felt by the Clothier, but the Merchant too; and all other Dependants are ſeverely touch'd in the moſt ſenſible Part.

In the Reign of King *Charles* the Second, the *French* King gave Countenance to his Subjects in *Languedoc* for the Carrying on the Woollen Manufacture there by raiſing a Fund to ſupport the Work. The Cloaths there made were in Imitation of our Broad-Cloaths made in *Glouceſterſhire*, *Wiltſhire*, &c. for our *Levant* Trade, &c. And there are alſo made great Quantities of Mix'd or Medley Cloth, from 10 *s.* to 16 *s.* *per* Yard, in Breadth one Yard three Quarters, in Imitation of our *Somerſetſhire* and *Glouceſterſhire* fine Cloaths; and in other Parts of *France*, I am informed is made a lower Sort of mix'd Cloath, from 6 to 8 *s.* *per* Yard, which is moſtly ſhipp'd off for *Italy*.

They make Drabs alſo for Cloathing their Armies. In other Parts again, they make narrow Goods in Imitation of our double Douzens,

Douzens, from 2 s. to 3 s. per Yard, and Kerseys in Imitation of those of *Yorkshire*. They make also Bayes in Imitation of our *Colchester* which are for the most part sent to *Spain*. Kerseys also in Imitation of those made in *Devonshire* and *Leeds*. Besides all which, they make Serges, Grazets, and other Stuffs, in Imitation of our *Norwich* Stuffs; also Ratins, Shalloons, Durances, and many others, too tedious to enumerate.

In *Picardy*, I am inform'd is a large Manufactury erected at the *French* King's Charge, where there is no Encouragement wanting to *English* Artists, many whereof have been allured over thither to instruct them in mixing their Wooll, &c. The Wooll their used is generally *Spanish*, and the finest of our Wooll, commonly called *Leimster*, of which they make Cloaths upward of 16 s. per Yard, worn by their Nobility and Gentry; with which they always us'd to be supply'd from *England* in and before the Reign of King *Charles* the Second.

I will here give one Instance of the *Swedes* setting up Manufactures, by the Help of our *English* and *Irish* Wooll, in the Year 1702. A Letter came from a Merchant in *Stockholm* to a Merchant in *London*, with Orders to buy up a considerable Parcel of mix'd Cloath; but before his Correspondent here had bought the Cloath, he receiv'd another Letter from him, counter-

manding

manding his former Order, informing him, That very lately a *Scotch* Ship had arrived there with 80 Bags of *English* and *Irish* Wooll, in each of which was contained three *English* Packs, which would be work'd up there time enough to answer the End design'd by the before-mentioned Cloath.

One of their Manufactories, I am inform'd, is set up at *Norcopen*, and supply'd with Wooll from *Scotland* by two noted Persons (which, I at present, omit to name) of which they make White Cloath, and dye into Colours for the *Levant* Trade.

PROPOSAL I.

That the Water-Carriage of Wooll be entirely prohibited, (except what is allow'd by Parliament to be transported from *Southampton* to the Islands of *Jersey*, *Guernzey*, *Sark* and *Alderney*) and that all Wooll be convey'd from Place to Place by Land-Carriage only; except what is imported to *England* from *Ireland*, and other adjacent Islands, or passing cross Rivers for the Use of Manufactury. I am very confident that this one Prohibition would contribute in a great Measure to the effectual preventing the Exportation of our Wooll, and Yarn made of Wooll, considering that most of the successful Frauds are carried on, under the Pretence of conveying it from one Port to another for the

Use

Use of the Manufactories, when, in Truth, all, or the greatest Part of the Wooll bought by them, is convey'd by Land-Carriage both to their Western and Northern Parts. And the other Provisions.

It is objected against this, that if Wooll be not allowed to pass by Sea from one Port to another, it will be an Hardship upon the Manufacturers and Traders in Wooll, by reason of the Dearness of the Land-Carriage, which must advance the Price of our Woollen Manufactures, and so prejudice the Staple of our Kingdom; and some farther alledge, that the Badness of the Roads in some Counties will not permit the Waggons to travel, especially in *Kent*.

ANSWER.

1. That the Manufacturers and fair Traders are so far from complaining against this additional Charge of Carriage, that they would readily pay it, and much more, if it would any way contribute to the lessening, or effectually preventing the Exportation of Wooll. We may reasonably suppose that the more of our Manufacturies are made, and vended abroad, the Poor would be so much the more employ'd at home, and Wooll advance in Price to the Benefit of the Grower and Farmer: And likewise that the Increase of Waggons and other Carriages, for its Con-

vejance by Lands, would be further benefi-cial to the landed Interest, the Farmer, Inn-keeper, and others employ'd under them, by the greater Consumption of Hay, Corn, Grass and other Provisions. And the Manufacturer would be benefited by selling his Cloth, and other Woollen Manufactures at better Prices, and in greater Quantities, especially *France* were hereby so cramp'd, that it could not supply *Spain*, *Turky*, *Italy*, and other Foreign Parts, with Woollen Manufactures, as they have done of late Years by the Increase of their own by the Exportation of *English* and *Irish* Wooll.

First, Then it is apparent the fear of a Surplusage of Charge arising from this Prohibition is grounDless, for many great and good Advantages might be reap'd from it; 'twould remove and sink the false Pretences of the Owlers, who lodge their Wooll near the Sea, under Colour of shipping it for some Trading Town in the Kingdom.

Secondly, It would prevent the Frauds of Officers in indorsing and returning of Cockets, by which many of them have favoured the Exportation of Wooll from Sea-Ports, which was taken Notice of in an Act of Parliament made in the first Year of *William* and *Mary*.

Thirdly, 'Twould reduce the Frigates and Shallops established by Act of Parliament, to a much smaller Charge, and thereby save the

Go-

Government above Thirty Thouſand Pounds *per Ann.* which would defray the Charges of Riding Officers, and remove many other Inconveniencies which do ariſe from the Water-Carriage of Wooll. I do not ſee any Colour or Reaſon to diſcourage us from, but many Arguments to invite us to, making ſuch a Prohibition: There is indeed one Article concerning the *Kentiſh* Wooll ſhipped at *Rye* for *Exeter*, the Land-Carriage of which would be dear, but even in that, the Diſproportion is not ſo great as 'tis commonly taken to be: And if we conſider the Danger and Damage to which the Wooll is expos'd by drawing in the Fogs, and taking Salt-water, we cannot reaſonably, by a trifling Objection, ſtifle an Univerſal and National Benefit to ſave ſuch an inconſiderable Particular, if compared with the Advantage which will ariſe from it.

Objection.

But ſome may ſay, How can there be any Fraud committed by conveying Wooll by ſhipping from one Port to another, when Bond is given by two ſufficient Perſons to the chief Officer of the Cuſtoms belonging to the Port, in double the Value of the Wooll, to deliver the ſame at the Port to which it is conſign'd?

AND WOOL.

There are some diving, that were formerly Masters of Vessels imploy'd in the Coasting Trade, have own'd, they have taken in Wooll in several Ports in *Kent*, and given Bond to deliver it at *Exeter*; but when out at Sea, have steer'd to the neareſt Port in *England*, and Shifted the Packcloaths on which the N° mark'd and Weight were ſet, and with theſe Cloaths have gone back to *Kent*, and fill'd them again with the ſame Weight of Wooll, and deliver'd with the Cocket, or Certificate at *Exeter*; by which his Bond ſtands have been diſcharged, and himſelf look'd on as a fair Trader. This hath been frequently practiced (and it's to be fear'd ſtill is) in the Port of *London*: From all which Inſtances I will leave all wiſe Men to judge how far the Exportation of Wooll may be prevented by reſtraining the Water-Carriage.

Proposal II.

That all the Wooll ſhorn in all Counties bordering on the Sea, and all Fell-Wooll ſhall within Days after the Sheering, be brought to ſuch Place or Places, where a Hall or Store-houſe ſhall be erected for the harbouring thereof, and certain Market-Days appointed for Sale; proper Officers to attend,

and to act according to Power given by any Owner for him in his Absence, to sell, &c. And it may not be amiss that a small Duty be laid to defray the expedient Charge of the Ware-house Room, Clerks, Porters, and other necessary Attendants; which may be done with very insignificant Charge to the Government, and would, its presum'd, redoun'd to the Advantage of the Growers of Wooll; for the variety of Chapmen, which must undeniably be in publick Markets, beyond what can be in private Contract, may give greater Advantage to the Disposer, who by this becomes a better Judge of the Consumption, and therefore Demand of his Commodity; each Buyer at the same time having in his View a proper Commodity for his Purpose, which certainly must be advantageous to him also.

Several Persons have given in to this present Parliament Proposals for a general Register of Wooll throughout *Great-Britain* and *Ireland*, by tracing it from the Grower to the Manufacturer, which might conduce to the Prevention of its Exportation; but I doubt the Difficulty and Charge that must necessarily attend that Project, will not be easily overcome, especially in Inland Counties, where Manufactures are, proper Markets for Wooll settled, &c. unless sworn Wooll-winders were appointed in all Counties,

ties, which Winder might (I confess) take an Account of the Fleeces by him wound, their Weight, and for whom, and give the same in Writing to the Wooll-Surveyor of that County, and he transmit it in Writing to the Commissioners for Wooll in *London*, with the Owner's Name, and to whom dispos'd of, with their Places of Abode (where it may be enter'd in a general Register, kept for that Purpose, to be inspected by any Person desiring it) whereby it may be known, whether the Buyers be Manufacturers, Wooll-Staplers, and other fair Traders, or such Enemies to our Nation we are complaining against. The Officer to give a Permit, or Sufferance with such Wooll for its Conveyance, inserting therein the Carrier's Name to whom consigned, and what County and Place; with a Limitation of certain Days for travelling, which Permit should be taken from the Carrier by a proper Officer of that District to which he travels; the Carrier giving Notice for such Officer to make an Entry before he unload, or deliver the Wooll to the Person it's consign'd to.

And here I cannot omit taking Notice, what great Quantities of Wooll are daily brought within the Liberties of the City of *London*, and harboured in Inns, Stables, Out-houses, and other obscure Places, where private Contracts have been frequently made

by

by such as buy it up for Transportation, removing it by Carts, or on Horses Backs, near, or upon the River *Thames*, until they can find an Opportunity to ship it contrary to Law. For preventing which Evil, and unwarrantable Practices, it is conceiv'd the Reviving and Incouraging of that ancient Wooll Mart at *Leaden-Hall*, which may be done without very great Trouble, there being now a Register-Clerk, with other Officers attending, for loading and unloading, and weighing in and out all Wooll coming to the said Mart, where a small Duty is now paid for laying it up, safe keeping, *&c.* It is proposed that all Wooll coming within the Cities and Suburbs of *London* and *Westminster* for Sale (other than what is brought to the Wooll-Stapler, or Manufacturer) may be brought to *Leaden-Hall*, and in Default whereof, that a Penalty of be paid for every Back of Wooll not brought to the said Market; or that every such Person as shall harbour or conceal it, contrary to Law, may be deemed (and suffer the Penalties inflicted by Laws already made against the) Transporters thereof.

Proposal III.

Great Mischiefs arising from the Numbers of Men travelling arm'd to convey the Waggons, Horses, and other Carriages loaden with Wooll,

Wooll, under Pretence of ſecuring it; it's deſir'd that not above three Men ſhall be allow'd to travel with any Waggon, or other Carriage, or with a Gang of Horſes; and if any are found arm'd with ſuch Waggon, or other Carriage ſo loaden, they ſhall be deemed Tranſporters, and ſuffer as ſuch. And that all Wooll ſhould be pack'd according to the ancient Cuſtom, which is 240 Pound Weight in one Cloath, which we call a common Pack, and not to exceed that Weight, without Licence firſt had and obtain'd from the Commiſſioners of Wooll, or the Surveyor of the County, where and when ſuch Wooll is ſhorn, and that only for the Eaſe and Accommodation of the Farmer, or Grower of Wooll, in conveying the ſame to the Houſing thereof. And that all Wooll ſent by common Carriers to the Staplers, or Manufacturer, *&c.* hath the neat Weight mark'd on the Pack-Cloath. And that ſuch common Carrier, that through the Badneſs of the Road, or other Hindrance, cannot keep his Stage and come in to his Inn within the Hour limitted in the Act of Parliament, made in the 14th Year of King *Charles* the Second, entituled *An Act*, &c.

that then in ſuch Caſe he ſhall give his Security-Bond of ... Hundred Pounds, for the

the true and faithful Delivering the Wooll to whom it's conſigned, his Servant or Servants.

Proposal IV.

That if all Proſecutions were carried on at the Charge of the Crown, it would very much conduce to the preventing the Running of Wooll. The Reaſons are manifeſt.

Reason I.

Whereas upon legal Seizures made and delivered into the King's Ware-houſe, ſham Claims have been entred, and ſham Actions brought againſt the Officer ſo ſeizing; after his having been at great Charge in preparing for Trial, ſuch Claimant hath abſented himſelf, and the Wooll been condemned at the farther Charge of the Officer, who expected to have had his Moiety paid him, as the juſt Reward of his Service; but that hath been deny'd him, and the Wooll alſo, unleſs he firſt paid the Moiety due to the Crown, which he is render'd unable to do, by reaſon of the great Charge he muſt be at in appraiſing and condemning it in the Court of Exchequer; (great Part, if not all, that Money, it is very probable he was forc'd to borrow;) it is therefore humbly offer'd that all Proſecutions hereafter be at the Charge of the Crown.

And whereas her late Majeſty in her Proclamation gave a Reward of 40 *l.* to all ſuch as ſhould ſeize or hinder the Exportation of Wooll, as in Caſes of Highway-Men; it is humbly thought that it would be of much greater Advantage to the Publick, and Encouragement to the Officer, if 5 *l.* were given for every Pack of Wooll ſeized and condemned by any Perſon whatſoever, over and above what is already allow'd by Act of Parliament.

Reason II.

That an Owler or Tranſporter of Wooll may ſend a Pack to the Sea-ſide, and give Notice to an Officer that it may be ſeized, the Government is hereby defrauded without any Benefit, and this is rather an Encouragement to the Carrying on theſe clandeſtine Deſigns than a Prevention; whereas if the 5 *l.* a Pack were given, it would deter them much more, none daring truſt another, leaſt he ſhould be diſcovered by his Fellows for the Reward; and I cannot think it amiſs to grant a Pardon as well as Reward to any Perſon who has been concern'd in any ſuch Practice, to diſcover the Methods that have been us'd, that they may be the better prevented for the future.

What

What I ſhall next propoſe is,

Firſt, A ſufficient Number of Sloops for Guarding the Coaſts of *Great Britain* by Sea, *&c.*

Secondly, The Form of a Scheme of what Officers are neceſſary for the doing of it by Land throughout *Great Britain*; which I hope will effectually prevent the Exportation of Wooll, to the Recovery of our much loſt Trade in the Woollen Manufactury and Merchandize.

PROPOSAL V.

That the Sloops, I propoſe, may be of real Service in this weighty Affair, not only at Sea, but in Bays, Creeks, and Rivers; I hope the following Scheme of their ſeveral Stations for Cruiſing will appear to be reaſonable. The Scheme was ſent me by two Maſters of Veſſels, which, according to their Requeſt in the following Letter, I here inſert.

SIR,

" YOUR long Expetience in the Woollen
" Manufactures, and unwearied Dili-
" gence and Expence, both in a publick and
" private Capacity, to promote the Growth
" and Increaſe of it, induces us to recom-
" mend the Printing of the incloſed Scheme
" in the Book you are preparing, which is,
" we hope, a ſufficient Number of Sloops
" to guard the Coaſt for preventing the Ex-
" portation of Wooll, in their proper Sta-
" tions; and 'tis hop'd will prove very ef-
" fectual to that End. We are,

SIR,

Your Servants to Command,

Robert Scott,
James Crockford.

A SCHEME *of the Coſt of Manning and Victualling* 22 *Sloops, for guarding the Coaſts of* Great Britain, *to prevent the Exportation of Wooll, and Smuggling Foreign Goods imported.*

Number of Sloops	Number of Men	Captain's Pay	Mate's Pay	Boatſwain and Gunner	Carpenter	Numb. of able Seamen	Each Man's Yearly Pay	Their whole Pay per Annum	Victualling, Fire and Candle, &c.	The Total Charge Annually
1	25	100	30	20	20	21	15	315	370 10 00	855 10 00
1	20	100	30	20	20	16	15	240	296 00	706 8 00
1	15	100	30	20	20	11	15	165	222 5 11	557 5 11

	l.	s.	d.
3 Sloops of 25 Men, the Yearly Charge amounts to	2566	10	00
6 ditto, of 20 Men each,	4238	8	00
13 ditto, of 15 Men each,	7244	16	11
22 Sloops. Total Charge Annually *l.*	14049	14	11

Their

Their Station for Cruiſing.

2 of 15 Men each from the Iſle of *Shippy* to *Dover.*

1 of 20 } Men from *Dover* to *Beachy.*
1 of 25 }

1 of 15 from *Beachy* to the *Iſle of Wight.*

1 of 20 to Cruiſe the out-ſide of the *Wight.*

1 of 15 to Cruiſe the inſide the *Iſle of Wight.*

1 of 20 from the Weſt-End of the *Iſle of Wight* to *Portland.*

1 of 20 from *Portland* to *Bury-head.*

1 of 15 from *Bury-head* to *Ram-head.*

1 of 20 from *Ram-head* to the *Lizard.*

1 of 15 from the *Lizard* to *Cape Cornwell.*

1 of 15 from *Cape Cornwell* to *Harty Point.*

1 of 15 from St. *David's Head* to *Worms-Head.*

The Northern Station from the Thames.

1 of 15 from the Iſle of *Shippy* to *Harwich.*

1 of 15 from *Harwich* to *Yarmouth.*

1 of 15 from *Yarmouth* to *Lyn.*

1 of 20 from *Lyn* to *Scarborough.*

1 of 25 from *Scarborough* to *Tinmouth*-Bar.

1 of 15 from *Tinmouth*-Bar to the *Frith* of *Edinburgh.*

1 of 25 from the *Frith* of *Edinburgh* to the *Frith* of *Murrough.*

1 of 15 from the *Frith* of *Murrough* about the Iſle of *Orknies.*

The next Thing to be consider'd, is the Charge that may attend the Guarding of the Coast by Land, an Account of which take as follows.

A LIST *of the Officers needful to be employed in preventing the Exportation of Wooll in the several Maritime Counties in* England; *with their Yearly Salaries.*

Counties Names.	Supervisors	Salaries per Annum	Riding Officers	Salaries per Annum	The Annual Charge of the Whole
Northumberland and Durham	1	200	14	60	1040
Cumberland	1	100	5	60	400
Yorkshire	1	150	12	60	870
Lancashire	1	100	10	60	700
Cheshire					
Lincolnshire	1	150	12	60	870
Norfolk	1	100	6	60	460

Suffolk,

Suffolk	1	100	8	60	580
Eſſex	1	100	6	60	460
Hampſhire and Iſle of Wight	1	150	9	60	690
Dorſetſhire	1	100	6	60	460
Devonſhire	1	150	10	60	750
Cornwell	1	150	12	60	870
Somerſetſhire and Glouceſter	1	120	6	60	480
Kent	1	150	25	60	1650
Suſſex	1	100	6	60	480
Middleſex and Surry	1	100	6	60	460

Sum Total *l.* 11200

The Annual Charge of Guarding the Coaſt of Wales *by Land.*

Monmouthſhire	1	100	5	60	400
Glamorganſhire	1	100	5	60	400
Carmarthenſhire	1	100	7	60	520
Pembrookſhire	1	100	5	60	400
Cardiganſhire	1	100	8	60	580
Marionerhſhire	1	100	5	60	400
Carnavanſhire					
Iſle of Angleſey					
Denbyſhire					
Flintſhire					

Sum Total *l.* 2700

The

The Annual Charge of preventing the Exportation of Wooll from North-Brittain, commonly call'd SCOTLAND.

	Supervisor	Salary	Riding Officers	Salaries per An.	The total Annual Charge
The East Part	1	L30	10	60	730
The West Part	1	150	12	60	870
				Total *l.*	1600

Note, The Office of every Supervisor is to direct and appoint the Post of the Riding Officers; inspect their Behaviour, and Register their Proceedings.

That each Riding Officer, in the Night Season, take another with him for his Assistance, and more, if need, upon Information given of Frauds intended, *&c.*

My Reason for making no Distinction in *England* of the Officers Salaries, (although some Counties are cheaper for living than others) is, that the Commissioners of Wooll or Supervisor may sometimes see Cause to exchange them from one County to another.

And here it may not be improper to take a Survey of the Annual Charge of the Land and Sea Service for preventing the Exportation of Wooll, Yarn made of Wooll, Fullers Earth, Scouring Clay, *&c.* out of *Great Britain.*

	l.	s.	d.
The Sloops proposed for the Sea Service, amounts to	14049	14	11
The Officers in the Land Service for *England*	11200		
For *Wales*	2700		
For *North-Britain*	1600		
Sum Total	29549	14	11

Five Commissioners each at 300 *l. per Ann.*	1500	
1 Secretary at	100	
2 Clerks 50 *l.* each	100	
2 Messengers at 30 *l.* each	60	
2 Door-keepers	40	
House Rent & House-keeping	200	
Postage of Letters	40	
The whole Annual Charge by Sea and Land amounts to	31589	14 11

PRO-

PROPOSAL VI.

That the Clauſe in an Act of Parliament made in the Firſt Year of King *William* and Queen *Mary*, for Exporting Wooll to the Iſlands of *Jerſey*, *Guernſey*, *Alderny* and *Sark*, be repealed, and no more permitted to go thither than was allow'd by the Act made in the 14th of King *Charles* the Second.

OBJECTION.

That the Quantities allowed by that firſt Act is not ſufficient to ſupply the Poor in their Manufacturies of Knit Ware.

ANSWER.

In Anſwer to this, I have had very credible Information from ſome of the Fair Traders in thoſe Iſlands concerning the Conſumption of their Wooll, That there hath been no leſs than half the Quantity (if not more) of the Wooll Exported from *England* to thoſe Iſlands, tranſported to *France*, by which Friendly Correſpondence, ſome of the Inhabitants of thoſe Iſlands were enriched during the late War by the Brandies, Wines, and Silk brought in Return for their Wooll. (And further, ſince the Peace, that the Conveyance of Wooll by Water-Carriage hath been incouraged, great Quantities have been convey'd from *London* to *Southampton*, under Pretence of being intended for the

Iſlands of *Jerſey* and *Guernſey*, allowed by Act of Parliament.) And likewiſe many Frauds are committed in ſhipping it from *Southampton* to the ſaid Iſlands by trading Veſſels; it is therefore propoſed that all Wooll be convey'd in Ships appointed by the Government, or Orders given to the Sloops Cruiſing on that Coaſt to ſee the Wooll delivered in thoſe Iſlands which is thither conſign'd, or give Notice to the Surveyor of Wooll to ſee the ſame entred.

PROPOSAL VII.

Whereas the Laws already made have not had the deſired Effect, it is humbly offer'd to Conſideration, whether ſome Corporal Puniſhment added to the Fine and Impriſonment already inflicted by Law, would not much more deter thoſe Smuglers from their vile Practices; or if it ſhould be thought more effectual, Tranſportation for Life; and that all Aiders and Abettors in exporting Wooll, that are Men of Eſtates, do, for the firſt Offence, forfeit one Years Income of the Rents and Profits of their Eſtates, over and above the Fines and Forfeitures already by Law charg'd upon them; and all ſuch as may think this a harſh, and too ſevere Proceeding, I would deſire to conſider how much worſe theſe Miſcreants are, than the vileſt Highway Men, who only rob a Man

Man of what he has about him, when this will unavoidably be the Ruin of many Families, who muſt become a burdenſome Charge to the Nation, and at length, it may juſtly be fear'd, the Ruin of the whole.

What is farther moſt material to be conſider'd is, a Fund ſufficient to Defray the Charges of Commiſſioners attending this Affair, and the Officers deputed under them for Land and Sea Service; for Intelligence, and Carrying on Proſecutions againſt Offenders.

1. Whereas the Frigates and Sloops already eſtabliſh'd by Acts of Parliament (as appears by Account given in by the Commiſſioners of the Cuſtoms, purſuant to an Order of this preſent Houſe of Commons, of the annual Charge thereof) have coſt the Nation 55000 *l.* and upward annually, and to very little purpoſe; it is preſum'd, that if his Majeſty would be pleas'd to recall ſuch Frigates and Sloops, and enable the Commiſſioners authorized by Parliament for preventing the Exportation of Wooll to fit out the Sloops, and appoint the Land Officers, mentioned in the foregoing Schemes; it is not to be doubted but our Woolls Exportation would be effectually prevented, to the great Increaſe of his Majeſty's Revenue, the Relief of our Poor, the Advancement of Naviga-

vigation, and the Advantage of all Trades depending thereon.

N. B. I am ſo far from deſiring to be chargable to the Crown in this Matter, that I doubt not, but the Charges attending this Affair, will be ſoon return'd into his Majeſty's Coffers with Improvement, by the following Method of raiſing Money, *viz.*

PROPOSAL VIII.

For Raiſing a Fund.

1. That all Cloth, and other Woollen Manufacture, ſhipp'd off White, may pay 3 *d.* for every Pound Weight of Dreſſed Cloths, and 4 *d.* for all Cloths, *&c.* undreſſed.

Tho' this Propoſal does not immediately relate to the Exportation of Wooll, yet it tends to redreſs the Grievances of our Woollen Manufacturers; for our Wooll is not fully manufactur'd, till the Cloth or Stuff made thereof is dreſs'd and dy'd. For by every Cloth that goes out of the Nation undreſs'd and undy'd, there is above 3 *l.* loſt to the ſeveral Artificers employ'd therein. For what I have further to ſay on this Head, I refer the Reader to a Letter of Sir *Walter Rawleigh* to King *James* I. inſerted Fol. 20, and leave him to judge whether a Duty or a to-

tal

tal Prohibition be moſt for the Intereſt of *England*.

2. That all Merchants Denizens pay a Duty of 1 *s.* for every Long Cloth dreſs'd and dy'd exported, and proportionably for all other Woollens fully manufactur'd, as before.

3. That all alien Strangers pay double the ſaid Duty.

OBJECTION.

It may be objected by ſome, that this will be ſuch a Clog to thoſe Commodities, that it will diſcourage our Merchants from Tranſporting them.

ANSWER.

That in the Reign of King *Charles* the Second, our *Engliſh* Merchants paid 3 *s.* 4 *d.* *per* Cloth, which is more then treble the Duty now propos'd, and Foreigners double; ſo that no Man concern'd in any Branch of the Woollen Manufacture can reaſonably think this a Burthen now; but (if a thinking Man, and juſt Trader) muſt know, and own it will neceſſarily conduce to his own perſonal and Families Wellfare, as well as that of the Publick, in regaining our Foreign Trade, whereby the Merchants were enrich'd in the Return of Foreign Commodities, with many of which we employ'd our Poor at home, and furniſh'd our Neighbours abroad, for other Conveniences. But if it ſhould be found to be any Grievance, it

may

may be enacted for no longer time than the Duty of Alnage, or ſealing of Cloth remains, which is about 8 or 9 Years: And that at the Expiration thereof, that Duty of Alnage may be made perpetual, and appropriated to this Uſe, and Collected by Officers appointed by Commiſſioners for preventing the Exportation of Wooll.

Proposal IX.

That 5 *s. per* Pack, or one Farthing a Pound be laid on all Fleece Wooll, and half that Duty on all Wooll taken from Sheeps Skin, or Lambs Skin, commonly call'd Fell Wooll.

Objection.

The Grower may perhaps think it a Hardſhip on him, but I ſhall hereafter make it appear, that it will be for his Advantage.

Answer.

Let's form an Eſtimate of the Loſs falling on the Grower of Wooll by ſuch a Tax.

Suppoſe a Farmer to Rent 200 *l. per Ann.* upon which Eſtate he keeps 400 Sheep, 8 Fleeces of which may produce a Tod or 28 Pound of Wooll, which is a Medium; for it is well known ſome Sheep that produce the

the fineſt Wooll; as for Inſtance, the *Herefordſhire* and Welch Sheep, 12 or 14 Fleeces will not produce a Todd; when in ſome other Countries 9 or 10 may weigh a Todd. And the largeſt Wooll growing in the Counties of *Northhampton*, *Lincoln*, *Leiceſter* and *Kent*, uſually Todd from 4 to 6 or 7 Fleeces: Now if we Compute the Charge that will fall upon the Farmer by this Tax of 1 Farthing *per* pound, it will appear to be no more than 7 *d. per* Todd, which is 1 *l.* 9 *s.* 2 *d.* for the Wooll of his 400 Sheep.

This, we may have great Reaſon to believe, will be very inconſiderable to what he may get by the Advance Price of Wooll, and the greater Conſumption of Corn, Cheeſe, and Cattle; For it's rational to ſuppoſe, That many Thouſands of poor People, that now live on Pariſh Rates, drink Water, and eat little more than Bread, (and well if they can get that) if conſtantly Employ'd, and paid for their Labour, might drink ſtrong Drink, eat Meat and other good Proviſions, which now they are rendred unable to do. And this would redound to the Farmer's Advantage Threefold more than the Tax he pays for his Wooll: And what is more, the Gentlemen and Landed Intereſt would reap an Advantage in the Sale of their Wooll at

a better Price 2 s. a Todd at leaſt; For the greater Demand for, and Conſumption of our Manufactures Abroad; The greater demand would be for Wooll at Home, and Conſequently Advance the Price of it to the Benefit of the Landed Intereſt, *&c.*

Proposal X.

That a Reſtraint be laid on the Printing and Wearing of Calicoes in *Great Britain* and *Ireland.*

Reason.

The Reaſon of this Propoſal is manifeſt, in that hereby the Conſumption of our fine Stuffs and Silks is much leſſened, not only in wearing them at Home, but Exporting them into Foreign Parts. The French King by a Decree of his Council of State in *October*, 1686. forbid the Printing and Wearing them in Garments and Furniture, and that all ſuch as ſhould be found in Shops, Warehouſes, *&c.* after *December*, 1687. ſhould be burnt, and the Proprietors fined 3000 Livers; His Reaſon was, That ſuch Goods ſtood in Direct Oppoſition to his and his Subjects Intereſts, in leſſening the Conſumption and Export of his Woollen Manufacturies at Home and Abroad, and thereby depriving the Poor of

of their Labour. Surely it does as much Concern us, as the French King, to preſerve and encourage the Increaſe, and Conſumption of our Woollen Manufactures.

The French King hath alſo forbid all Wrought Silks being brought into his Dominions, for the Encouragement and Beneſit of his Subjects in Manufacturing the Raw Silk imported from *Turky*, *Italy*, &c. in return for his Woollen Manufactures.

OBJECTION.

It may by ſome be Objected, That the reſtraining the Printing, and Wearing of Callicoes would deprive many Poor of their Labour, and ſubſiſtance, that are Emplop'd in Printing them.

ANSWER

In anſwer to which, it is very well known that Manufacturing our Wooll into fine Stuffs, and alſo our Raw Silk will employ Ten times as many Poor as the Callicoe Printing would: If I had ſaid twenty times, I had been within the Bounds of Verity.

OBJECTION.

Another Objection may ariſe, and that more plauſible than the former, That the Duty lately laid on Printed Callicoes, brings many Thouſands of Pounds *per Ann.* to the Crown, which would ſink the Kings Revenue, if Printing and Wearing of Callicoes were prohibited.

ANSWER.

I muſt confeſs this Objection bears weight ſo far with me, that I would much more readily offer what might Conduce to the Enlarging the Revenues of the Crown, than diminiſh it, and ſhall therefore in Anſwer hereunto, offer a Method of raiſing an Equivalent, *Viz.*

That every broad Weaver in Silk, and Stuff Weaving, ſhould pay 6 d. *per* Month for each Loom. This, it's preſumed, would raiſe more Money to the Crown, than is now receiv'd by the Duty on Callicoes Printed; and here ariſeth another Objection, *Viz.*

OBJECTION.

That ſuch a Tax being laid on Looms, and Labouring People, may ſeem harſh, and oppreſſive.

Answer.

In anſwer to which, The Advantage that would accrue to the Weaver by increaſe of Trade, and conſtant Employment hereby, would more than Countervail ſuch a Tax, ſo That Objection is groundleſs. And what's more, I dare affirm, That, were they left to their Liberty to be Tax'd on that Score (I mean upon a Total Prohibition of the Printing and Wearing of Callicoes within his Majeſties Dominions) they would readily and chearfully pay a greater Duty than is propos'd.

And here I cannot omit mentioning the Wrought Silks imported from *India*, &c. which, tho' forbid to be expoſed to Sale here, are bought up by Foreigners, and others (conſiderably cheaper than our Weavers can make here) and ſent to *Ireland*, our Plantations and other Parts; which deprives Thouſands of poor Weavers, and others, of their Labour, by leſſening the Conſumption of our Woollen Manufactures Abroad: And what is worſe (if I am rightly inform'd theſe Silks are ſhipped of to our Plantations Cuſtom-free; and not only ſo, but a Drawback of 30 *per Cent.* or more, is allowed; inſomuch that they are prejudicial to the Poor in their Labour,

Labour, beſides the loſs to the Crown by the Drawback.

It is therefore humbly hoped, That our Legiſlators will take this Matter into their mature Conſideration, and make ſuch Laws, as may Encourage our Manufactures; by taking off ſuch Drawback, or in Prohibiting the Importation of Wrought Silks; And alſo, the Drawbacks allow'd on the Exportation of our Dying Wares; That Forreigners may not have the Advantage of Dying cheaper with our Indico, Logwood, *&c.* than we can our ſelves.

Notwithſtanding what has been already propos'd, it is impoſſible to ſecure the deſir'd Effects, if we ſhut not the Iriſh Backdoor; I ſhall therefore endeavour, according to my Capacity, to lay down a Method for the Prevention of that Evil alſo.

But before I come directly to it, I will give you a Tranſcript of what I receiv'd from an Ingenious, Well-wiſhing Gentleman to his Country's Proſperity, that was for ſeveral years a Surveyor in the Southern Parts of that Kingdom; and had thereby an Opportunity of making Obſervations, and diſcovering the Projects, and Methods us'd in this deſtructive Trade, in and ſince the year 1701. upon our breaking with Spain, *&c.*

The

The French then thought it their propper time to Engroſs the Spaniſh Trade into their own Hands, and ſupply them with Woollens, which before they had from *England*.

This Stratagem (ſays he) took Effect, by their ſettling a Correſpondence in *Ireland* with ſuch who were Favourers of K. *James* 2. ſome of which ſettled in *France*, and had a Mutual Correſpondence with thoſe in *Ireland*; by whom they were ſupply'd with Wooll from the South Coaſt of that Kingdom.

The French finding the Sweetneſs of the Woollen Trade, have left no thinking Man to wonder at their Aſſiduity in promoting it; eſpecially to the *Spaniſh Weſt-Indies*; And that crafty Monarch thought it ſo great Advantage, that he advanced two Millions of Livres, and the King of *Spain* one Million, in their Joynt-Stock of Six Millions; the other three Millions by the Subjects of thoſe two Crowns, for the carrying on that profitable Commerce, forbidding, under ſevere Penalties, the ſending any Effects by the Galleons thither, but what were the Produce of thoſe two Countries; not doubting thereby to ſecure to themſelves all the Treaſure of *America*. The French having then 30 Sail of Ships Trading in the *South Seas*, for bringing of Bullion to *France*. Then it was that they endeavoured to Engroſs the Spaniſh Wooll by a Stock of 40 Millions of Livres advanced by

by the French King, and the Subjects of ſeveral Provinces; That of *Languedock* alone furniſhed five Millions; whereupon Manufacturies were ſet up at *St. Maloes*, *Rochell*, *Nants*, *Bourdeaux*, &c.

Theſe Things duly weighed, cannot but affect the Mind of every good and true Engliſhman; and inſpire all, in whoſe Power it lies to redreſs it, with a true and fervent Zeal.

And now, having (as before in *Great Britain*) ſhewn the Managements of thoſe in *Ireland*, in carrying on the ſame pernicious Traffick, I ſhall proceed to Propoſals for preventing its being exported from thence to *France*, &c.

Firſt, By Sea-Service: And here I'll give a Scheme, which I ſubmit to judicious Conſideration, whether not likely to be (if not fully preventive, yet) a Mean of going a great Way in effecting this good work.

A SCHEME of the Coſt of Manning and Victualling 10 Sloops, for guarding the Coaſts of Ireland, to prevent the Exportation of Wooll, and Smuggling Foreign Goods imported.

Number of Sloops	Number of Men	Captain's Pay	Mate's Pay	Boatswain and Gunner	Carpenter	Numb. of able Seamen	Each Man's Yearly Pay	Their whole Pay per Annum	Victualling, Fire and Candle, &c.		The Total Charge Annually		
1	25	100	30	20	20	21	15	315	304	03 04	789	03	00
1	20	100	30	20	20	16	15	240	243	06 04	653	06	00
1	15	100	30	20	20	11	15	165	182	10 00	517	10	00

4 Sloops of 25 Men each, is per Ann.	3156	12	00
3 Sloops of 20 Men each, ditto	1959	18	00
3 Sloops of 15 Men each, ditto	1552	10	00
10 Sloops. Total Annual Charge	6669	00	00

Their Stations for Cruſing.

2 Sloops of 25 Men, from the *Salthouſes* to Cape *Clear.*
2 of 25 from Cape *Clear* to the *Shannon.*
2 of 20 from the *Shannon* to the Iſle of *Aron.*
2 From the Iſle of *Aron* to *Groome* Iſland, *viz.* One of 20 Men, and One of Fifteen.
2 of 15 from *Groome* Iſland to the *Salthouſes.*

Theſe Sloops being ſo Station'd, may have Communication with each other, to Conſult proper Meaſures for diſcovering Frauds, and in few hours joyn themſelves upon any Information from the Commander, who ſhall firſt be acquainted with a Deſign of Running any Goods.

And it is to be hop'd, with Juſt and Careful Management, theſe Sloop may be reduc'd to half the Number in very few Years, and ſave the Government half that Charge.

'Twould be very unreaſonable to think, That any Nation will not take all proper Methods for the Encreaſe of their Trade and enriching themſelves; 'Tis the very Deſign of this Treatiſe to ſhew *Great Brittain* the Way ſo to do; I would therefore have it Conſider'd, That 'tis unreaſonable we ſhould deny our Fellow Subjects in *Ireland* the ſame Priviledge: And 'twill more abundantly appear ſo, if we have a Retroſpect to the Cauſe of their ſo abounding in Wooll.

It

It is well known to be a very fruitful Country, and their Chief Breed and Feed was formerly Black Cattle; But (whether for our own Advantage, in King *Charles* 2d's Reign, an Act was made to prohibit the Importation of *Irish* Cattle) they were forc'd, for Consumption of their Pasturage, and a Livelyhood, to Breed Sheep; which has occasion'd a great Quantity of Wooll in that Kingdom, and *England* having laid a severe Duty on their Wooll and Yarn, can it be suppos'd they will not find other Vent for it, (and who can blame them?

I now proceed to my Proposals for Redress.

PROPOSAL I.

That the Act before-mention'd for prohibiting the Importation of Black Cattle, be repeal'd, and the Breed of their Sheep confind to such a Number as may be thought sufficient fully to supply the Occasions of that Kingdom.

OBJECTION.

But some may say, 'Twill be disadvantageous to the Breeders of Black-Cattle here.

ANSWER.

In answer to which, it may be alledged, That when the *Irish* Cattle were brought [illegible] *land*, Beef was one Fifth part cheaper

then it has been ſince; the Grazier was alſo benefited, for that thoſe *Iriſh* Cattle were ſooner fatted, and ſold more to their profit, than our own Breed; but what is more, the Trading Subjects of *England* were generally benefited by it; for the greateſt part of the Money receiv'd for ſuch Cattle, was laid out in Commodities, which they carried home with them, *viz.* Woollen Cloth, Stuffs, Silks, Gold and Silver Lace, and many other Wares. 'Tis true, the greater quantity of Wooll comes from *Ireland*, the cheaper is Wooll in Price, for it ſinks the Price of our *Engliſh* Wooll, to the manifeſt loſs of our Breeders of Sheep, which are more numerous than our Breeders of Black Cattle; and conſequently muſt ſink the Price of Land: But what is much worſe, the *Iriſh*, for want of a vent of their Wooll in *England*, do contrive to ſend it into Foreign Parts, as I have beforementioned, to the apparent leſſening of our Woollen Manufacture, and ſupporting and incouraging of Foreign Manufactures, which could not otherways ſubſiſt, and which, if not prevented, will terminate in the utter Ruin of it; to the increaſe of our Poor, the ſinking the value of Land, the Diminiſhing of the Revenus of the Crown, and in ſhort, the weakening our whole Conſtitution, and Strengthening our Enemies. And as to our going

with

with cheap Cloth to Forreign Markets; we cannot be undersold by any, for that the Wooll both of *France*, *Holland*, and almost all other Countries, except *Spain*, will not make Cloath either for ornament or service, without ours to mix with it, so that, as I have before told you, Foreigners will be constrained to give us our Price.

I cannot but remember what a quick vent we had for our Cloth, *&c.* about 30 Years since, when Wooll was near double the price it is now. Cloth then bore a price equivalent, and then it was that our Merchants Flourished, and got great Estates without Complaints of the dearness of Goods; but then the enquiry was after the best made Goods, for which a price was not stinted, and not after the cheapest.

Proposal II.

That if the Wisdom of the Nation shall not think fit to repeal that Act, It is submitted, whether it would not be Expedient to permit and encourage the Importation of Irish Wooll and Yarn into *England*, by taking off the Duty, which I am very fond of thinking will appear proper to be done, if any Gentleman will give himself leave, with an unbyas'd mind, to peruse the foregoing Sheets.

OBJECTION.

But it may be Objected, 'Twill lower the Price of Wooll in *England*, to the Loss of our Breeders.

ANSWER.

This answers it self, for the Tax that may be laid for the support of the Sloops and Land-service, *&c.* will set them upon a Level with us; and should our Growers complain of the lowering their Price here, I am much mistaken, if (the whole consider'd) it will not prove it's Advance; for if there is not such Care taken of our Woollen Manufacture, as before Specified; it must encrease the Consumption, consequently the Demand, and so the Price will not be diminish'd to the Grower, but he will find it abundantly his Advantage.

PROPOSAL III.

That a Duty of one Half-penny *per* Pound, be laid on all Wooll, to be paid by the Proprietor at the time of Sheering, which will amount to 10 *s.* a Pack of 240 *lb.* Now we may suppose, upon a modest Calculation, that the Wooll of the Growth of that Kingdom, cannot be less than Sixty thousand Packs, which will amount to Thirty thousand Pounds *per Ann.* which we may ration-

nally conclude, will defray the Charges of Sea and Land Service.

Proposal IV.

That, considering the Impossibility of the Commissioners in *England* to Inspect the Affairs of that Kingdom to good Effect, It is humbly propos'd, That 3 Commissioners may be appointed there; and they oblig'd every Three Months to transmit Duplicates of their Transactions to the Commissioners in *England*; And that the said Commissioners, direct the Establish'd Sloops on that Coast, to Convey all Ships freighted with Wooll to their respective Ports in *England*, whither they are bound, and carry back a Certificate from the Chief Officer of that Port, of the number of Packs Enter'd and Landed there, and to whom Consign'd.

If these Proposals should not be thought Effectual to rescue our Trade out of the Hand of Forreigners, and secure to our Nation its native Treasure, I have the Peace and Satisfaction of Mind, that I have flung in my Mite towards it; and I hope, at least, it may prove a Prompter to others of more Leasure and Ability, to give a finishing Stroke to my well design'd Beginning.

FINIS.

Advertiſement.

AT the Printing-Houſe in Bow-Church-Yard, Cheapſide, Shop-keepers Bills, and all other Buſineſs is printed: Alſo the Prints of Shop-keepers Signs, Tobacco Marks, Prints for Marking Goods, and all other Prints or Marks, are nicely Cut or Engraved, either on Wood or Copper,

By John Cluer, *&c.*

Note, The Prints on Wood are Cut ſo fine, as ſcarce to be diſcern'd from Copper Plates, and ſo deep as to laſt twenty times longer.

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